METRO / A19
Taxi driver, ABS-CBN reporter file raps vs ex-PBA player Bong Alvarez

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Mom gives character profile of Julia Campbell in Ifugao court

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, August 22, 2007 44 Sections / Vol. 23 / No. 255 P18 www.inquirer.net

If Ninoy had come home to cheers, not bullets ...

By Norman Bordadora and Yuki Casanova

IMAGE IS AN OBSESSION FOR POLITICIANS, from presidents at the top to port hustlers at the bottom of the Sea. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. knew this well—and used it.

What if the charismatic opposition leader was simply whisked back to prison by his captors after he was flown back to Manila on August 21, 1983?

What if the chaotic scene at the airport—with Ninoy's bloodied body lying on the tarmac—was never broadcast live to the world?

What if the choreographed welcome parade that was supposed to take Ninoy from the airport to Malacañang Palace never happened?

What if Ninoy had come home to cheers, not bullets?

Would the Philippines be a different country today?

Would Ninoy be remembered as a martyr who died for democracy, or as a politician who failed to return to power?

Would Ninoy be a hero?

Would Ninoy be a saint?

Would Ninoy be a myth?

Would Ninoy be a ghost?

Would Ninoy be a memory?

Would Ninoy be a footnote?

Would Ninoy be forgotten?

Would Ninoy be dead?

Would Ninoy be alive?

Would Ninoy be president?

Would Ninoy be ...

Would Ninoy be ...

Would Ninoy be ...

6/42 | 6D | 4D
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6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN
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WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

GMA orders tighter security all over

Spillover of conflict in Sulu, Basilan to other areas feared

By Julius Lalanig-Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO ordered the military and the police to bolster security across the nation as she warned that a military offensive against terrorists in Mindanao could prompt retaliatory terror elsewhere in the country.

She said the government will not cow off the offensive despite calls from Church leaders to halt the fighting because this would endanger the country's security, fail to give justice to the slain soldiers and embolden terrorists.

"My understand clause who want to stop the war but we should remember that there will be no security in our country if we unsuit give justice to our soldiers who are defending our nation," the President said in a television address before the start of a bilateral Security Council meeting yesterday.

"Instead, the terrorists will be emboldened if they will not be unable to pay for their dastardly acts against our soldiers heroes, "the Arroyo said in Filipino.

She urged the people to unite behind the Armed Forces: "Let us honor our soldiers who fought, died and were wounded in Basilan and Sulu. Their sacrifice should not be in vain. We shall not retreat from battle to give justice to our Marines and to bring peace and progress to our country."

The Philippine National Police, meanwhile, raised its alert level in Metro Manila and other areas on Monday in anticipation of a possible spillover of the conflict in Sulu and Basilan.

Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, PNP spokesperson, said the police were on red alert in the six regions in Mindanao and Metro Manila.

In other parts of Luzon and the Visayas, it is on heightened alert.

It was the third time the NSC convened since July 30 when 14 Marines were killed in an ambush by the outpatriot Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Six of the 14 Marines were beheaded, which was blamed on the Abu Sayyaf subsidized group which is linked to the al-Qaida international terror group.

The President ordered a limited military offensive last week to flush out thousands of troops to hunt the killers in Basilan and on nearby jobs where the military had suffered heavy losses in recent skirmishes.

On Aug. 9, the Armed Forces suffered its biggest single-day loss in decades when 26 soldiers died in two clashes with the Abu Sayyaf-cum-bids.

Last Saturday, 15 Marines and an Air Force pilot were killed when Marines bombed an attack on an Abu Sayyaf camp in Basilan in the area of the July 30 ambush.

But while ordering the military offensive to continue, the President emphasized that economic development remained the government's principal weapon against terrorism.

Saturday she signed Executive Order 562 to implement the directive she issued on Sunday for a humanitarian intervention in Basilan and Sulu.

She said police and military operations would be balanced with a full-scale development offensive, which she called a "humanitarian invasion."

"Despite the recent hostilities, Basilan and Sulu are by no means a war zone," she said, explaining that EO 562 was an all-encompassing "action plan" for the two provinces. It uses the acronym HELP which stands for health, education, livelihood and progress.

She dispatched various Cabinet officials to Sulu and Basilan "to execute the care and comfort of those who might be displaced" by the ongoing conflict.

Ms. Arroyo also said the government would continue to pursue peace in Mindanao and hoped to resume talks with the MILF next month in Malaysia. (See story on Page 17.)

With reports from Alyssa Papa, in Manila, and John S. Alipala, Noah H. Bhadrani and Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

Yano is new Army chief

SOUTHERN LUZON COMMAND chief Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano yesterday was named the new Philippine Army head replacing Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino who is retiring on Friday.

Yano was among seven officers picked by President Macapagal-Arroyo to Sulu and Basilan to oversee the operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo E. Dinsay, commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command (Easmincom) covering central, southern and southwestern Mindanao will take over as Solcom chief.

Taking Obsanzo's place at Easmincom is Lt. Gen. Cardolo M. Lucia, commander of the Ground Command (Gencom). Lucia served as temporary Chief of Staff for Civil Military Operations (CMO) of the Army and chief of the Intelligence and Security Group.

Lucia will be replaced at Gencom by Maj. Gen. Victor H. Ibrado, current chief of the Special Operations Command which oversees the Scout Rangers, Special Forces and the counterinsurgent Light Reaction Battalion.

Lt. Gen. Ingrito Ordo, commander of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), who is set to retire on Sept. 6, will be replaced by Westmincom commander Maj. Gen. Nelson Allegre.

Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, the least senior Marine officer after Allegre and current head of the National Capital Region Command, will be the new Marine commander.

Taking over the NCRCom is Maj. Gen. Fernando L. Mina, a "well known intelligence and civil military operations officer." Christine O. Avendaño

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God knows, says bishop of intentions

STRICTLY SPEAKING, MASS INTENtions, such as those for the dead, need not be read out loud to make it known they are part of the mass, a Catholic bishop said recently.

"The merits of a Mass are infinite. They are for the whole Church, for everyone," said Cubao-area Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, chair of the Commission on Public Affairs of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

Iñiguez said it had become "traditional" to read Mass intentions out loud "to give an opportunity for the faithful's special intentions to be heard."

"It became a usual when the prayers for the faithful were introduced as part of the Mass," he told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

Iñiguez said his statement was not intended to counter the wife of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, who was reported by the Inquirer to have recommended Msgr. Alfred Isaiguez of St. Ignatius Cathedral in Camp Aguinaldo for failing to mention a special intention for the Marines killed in Jolo, Sulu, during a Sunday Mass (but she corrected).

The bishop said he only cried about the incident on the Inquirer.

In Loma Esperon explained later that she did not "hand-coat" Isaiguez, but that their conversation in his office after the Mass could have been misconstrued as a dressing-down, since she was speaking loudly because her voice was hoarse.

"God is aware of all our needs even before we pass for them," Iñiguez said in an earlier interview over Church-run Radio Veritas after the incident. —Dikka Dizon

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Bongbong: Tan gave me tour of businesses

By Jocelyn R. Uy

KAREN MOET BEN PERES joined "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. testified yesterday that tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan once gave him a tour of one of the firms allegedly sustained on the largesse by his late father, President Ferdinand Marcos, and Tan showed him how he should run it in the future.

Marcos gave this testimony at the Sandiganbayan yesterday in support of his claim that 60 percent of Tan's corporate holdings belonged to his father.

His testimony was part of the Presidential Commission on Good Government's bid to recover the 60 percent, amidst all the Marcoses that were held for them by close associates of the late strongman.

Tan's lawyer, Estelito Mendoza will cross-examine Marcos today.

Yesterday's Marcos presented copies of a deed of assignment which showed how the assets of his father and Tan were placed in Shareholdings Inc., a holding company for all the companies now controlled by Tan.

These included Hornose Investment Corp., Asia Brewery Inc., Allied Banking Corp., Rosemoor Mines, Himmel Industries Inc., Grandspan Development Corp., Silangan Holdings Inc. and Dominion Tobacco Corp.

But Senior Associate Justice Macandin Contes-Estrada ruled that the PCGG should present the original documents or establish secondary evidence before Marcos' testimony pertaining to the documents could be admitted in court.

Marcos told the US Customs Service was in possession of the original documents since they were confiscated from the family when they arrived at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii on Feb. 26, 1986.

"We hoped to produce them today but due to bureaucratic reasons there was a delay and they would be available around mid-October," Marcos told the court.

Marcos said he was first introduced to Tan by his father in the 1970s.

He said Tan was often summoned to Malacañang by his father who would meet with the businessman in the "study room," which was next to his father's office.

At one of the meetings, Marcos recalled that his father and Tan discussed how he wanted his son to familiarize himself with the operations of the "enterprise he has an interest in."

Tan had allegedly said that he would help Bongbong learn how to run the businesses.

When Tan supposedly went abroad, his father called him and his sister, Imee, to a meeting and instructed them to come up an inventory and audit of all the businesses he owned, Bongbong said.

During that meeting, Marcos showed them documents—such as the deeds of assignment of shares of stock, titles of properties—and drew a "sketch" of how the structures worked.

It was at this time that he first saw the original documents, which are now in US custody, Bongbong said.

He second meeting with Tan was at his Allied Bank office, where the businessman presented to him the ownership structure of the different companies his late father had an interest in.

"He drew a diagram on a piece of paper of the company Shareholdings Inc.," Marcos said in court.

According to Bongbong, Tan also took him to the Asia Brewery plant in Laguna in a helicopter.

"He took me around ... [to show] the general operations of the plant," he said.

Their third encounter—a dinner meeting—at the restaurant of the late Lucio Tabiana, former Marcos-era airport manager, sometime in March 1993 was rather awkward, he said.

Tan allegedly expressed his anger at Rolando Lopez, the Marcoses' financial manager who had supposedly betrayed him a Marcos crony.

"He said 'I don't like Rolly Lopez. He is trying to say I am a crony but I was never part of their business endeavors," Bongbong quoted Tan as saying.

Shocked to hear such a statement from his father's supposed business partner, Bongbong told Tan: "We seem to have forgotten the agreements made in the past." Tan did not reply, he recalled.

But before the distant meeting ended, Tan supposedly handed him a check for P1 million for his election campaign. "I was upset. I saw the check up in the distance of my sight," Marcos said.

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Gov't goes after Marcos funds held by aide in Switzerland

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION on Good Government (PCGG) will ask Swiss authorities to turn over to the Philippine government the estimated $8.82 million (over P440 million) in the Zurich-based bank accounts of Dr. Rea Gimenez, the former social secretary of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

The PCGG has prepared a petition asking the Swiss Federal Supreme Court to reconsider the dispute with Adler & Co. AG (Switzerland) in the names of Gimenez, her husband Ignacio, and Roberto Dinsday, a half-brother of Ignacio, which they said was part of the late dictator's ill-gotten wealth.

"We're confident the Swiss courts will act favorably on our petition," PCGG Commissioner Maria Concepcion the inquirer.

The recovered funds "will go to the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program," Cuasi said.

Last week, the PCGG asked the Supreme Court to dismiss a petition filed by Ignacio Gimenez and Dinsday questioning the forfeiture of the Swiss deposits.

The commission said the petitioners were merely trying to delay the forfeiture ruling, hoping it would be made moot by a Swiss statute of limitations on frozen bank accounts.

The government recently moved to retrieve Marcos' hidden wealth also accused the two alleged dummies of the late dictator of "forum shopping," saying their petitions for the lifting of the freeze order had been rejected by the Swiss courts at least nine times and twice by the Sandiganbayan.

In a 26-page decision in December, Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francisco de Cuevas ruled the Adler Bank account in the names of the Swissnamese registered firm U.S.I. was ill-gotten.

According to court records, the firm was set up in 1985 supposedly to sell personal educational plans to Filipinos, with initial capital of P10 million. An account with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank branch in Zurich opened after the fall of the Marcos regime in 1986 was later transferred to the Adler Bank in the name of Dinsday.

According to the PCGG, the funds were "unlawfully acquired by the spouses Gimenez—in conspiracy with Dinsday—and are grossly disproportionate to their lawful income."

From 1981 to 1985, the Gimenez couple declared a total net worth of only P903,272, said the commission.

The Sandiganbayan Gimenez and Dinsday asked the antigraft court to reconsider its decision, arguing that they had been denied due process. The Sandiganbayan rejected their motion, prompting them to bring the matter to the Supreme Court.

Aside from the Gimenez bank deposits, the PCGG said "additional recoveries are forthcoming as a result of the Supreme Court decision [dated Nov. 22, 2000] declaring the estate of the late publisher of the Manila Bulletin, Hans Menzi, as also as part of Marcos' hidden wealth."

The ruling affirmed a Sandiganbayan decision ordering Menzi to disgorge the 46,630 fractus shares of Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., and another 190,052 shares in the name of Jose S. Campos, among others.

"The proceeds from the sale of 190,052 shares deposited in Hoffman Bank, plus interest of P124.3 million, were declared forfeited in favor of the government," said the PCGG.

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2 quakes hit RP Monday

[MANILA] CITY—A MAGNITUDE 6.6 earthquake struck off the coast of Mindanao on Monday night but there were no reports of injuries or damage.

The intense tremor which occurred 9:46 p.m. followed similar strong quakes that hit Mindanao and other countries last week. No tsunami warning was issued.

Benjamin Cabonilas, officer in charge of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology here, said the quake's epicenter was located in 209 kilometers southeast of Mati, Davao Oriental.

"It was tectonic in origin and had a depth of 16 kilometers, meaning its origin was shallow," he said. "We are expecting aftershocks because this area is fractured was quite large."

The quake was felt in several provinces. It was in Samsung Tito Cabral, Bruno Diamond, 11 registered Intensity 2 in Bislig, Surigao del Sur; San Francisco in Agusan del Sur; Davao City and Kidapawan City in North Cotabato, and Intensity 1 in Butuan.

In Davao City, telephone company Digitel reported experiencing very "intermittent cellular break," which disrupted landline services on Tuesday.

Digitel was shocking if the was related to the 3.2 magnitude earthquake that shook Central Luzon and Metro Manila at 11:24 a.m.

No field personnel were doing restoration work in the meantime.

There were also no reports of injuries or damage.

The quake's epicenter was 22 km northeast of Olongapo City at a depth of 13 km, Phivolcs said. Alert Armed, Inquirer Mindanao, Jennifer Detoma, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Inquirer wire

Tears fill Marine gym again

From page A-14

realism, the family of Cpl. Rory Moreno couldn't hide their anguish as they wept.

Moreno and Jose Jiminez on his face.

Jiminez and Marcel Domingo quietly watched over the body of their nephew, Cpl. Virgilio Domingo III, whose parents were expected to arrive yesterday from General Santos City.

Domingo, who joined the Marines in 2005, turned 20 a day after he was killed.

President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived at Fort Bonifacio yesterday at 6:20 p.m. to personally offer her condolences to the families of Lt. Maximo.

Accompanied by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Oscar Tolentino, Navy chief Vice Admiral Rogelio Colmenares and Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Nelson Allegre, the President stopped before the row of coffins and offered a prayer.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro joined Mr. Arroyo as she spent 2 to 3 minutes with representatives of the bereaved families. She also handed each of them an envelope which reportedly contained P100,000.

In Cotabato City, a lunch welcome awaits 2nd Lt. Eugene Bacquirin Oliva Jr., the first and only Philippine Military Academy graduate from Iqs, Sharif Kabunsuan, who died in the clash with the Abu Sayyaf on Saturday.

His remains are expected to arrive in Cotabato City today.

Mayor Rasmen Diang Jr. said Oliva's death was a great loss to the country and to Iqs, an upland town in Sharif Kabunsuan known for its sun and other high-value crops.

Oliva's was the only boy among three siblings. He was high school valedictorian in St. Francis Academy seven years ago. Becoming a Marine was his dream while in high school, his parents, Eugene and Lyn, Cluny said. With Christine G. Hernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

SWS survey: Fewer families say they're poor

FEWER FILIPINO families now consider themselves "poor," according to a recent survey of the Social Weather Stations.

While nearly one in every two Filipino families (47 percent)—equivalent to roughly 8.6 million households—still consider themselves poor, this was lower than the 53 percent (over 9.2 million households) who considered themselves poor in the last survey, according to the Second Quarter 2007 Social Weather Survey.

The survey was conducted in June and the results released in an SWS statement yesterday. The last SWS quarterly survey was done in February.

Geographically, self-rated poverty was 52 percent in the Visayas, 49 percent in Mindanao, 47 percent in the rest of Luzon and 38 percent in Metro Manila—lower than in the previous three quarters.

Belt-tightening

It was also lower (41 percent) in urban areas and at 54 percent in rural areas.

"From March 2005 to February 2007...self-rated poverty was between 46 percent to 56 percent, and poverty very between 49 percent to 64 percent," SWS said (see chart above).

SWS said the decline occurred "in the context of countrywide tightening of families' living standards," meaning Filipino families have been tightening their belts.

The National Statistical Coordination Board places the official poverty threshold—minimum income to get P1,195 a month. The amount is what a Filipino family of five would need to meet its most basic food and non-food necessities for one month.

The survey defined the "self-rated poverty threshold" as the monthly budget that poor households say they would need in order not to be considered poor.

The SWS said the self-rated poverty threshold had actually fallen in money terms despite the steady increases in the cost of living.

Lower standards

"A declining poverty threshold, despite rising cost of living, means that households are lowering their living standards," SWS said.

The survey, director of a household basis, showed the respondents a new that contained the words "the poor," "On the line" and "Poor." They were asked where they would place their family given the choices.

Those who answered "poor" were then asked, "How much money would your family need for items expenses each month as order not to be called poor anymore?"

Among poor households in Metro Manila, the median poverty threshold was only P9,000, even as it had gone up to as much as P13,000 several times in the past.

For Luzon outside Metro Manila, the threshold ranged from P5,000 to P7,000 in the past two years, while it reached as high as P18,000 in earlier years.

In the Visayas, the threshold has been at P6,000 for the past year, even as it had reached P10,000 previously. In Mindanao, the threshold is currently at P4,000, but reached P10,000 in the past.

Deflated poverty

In 2000, the median poverty threshold for Metro Manila was P10,000, which would be equivalent today to P14,500 a month, using June 2007 cost of living standards.

"The difference of ... P5,500 between the thresholds of 2000 and June 2007 (P14,500 minus P9,000) measures the extent of belt-tightening that took place," SWS said.

"The 500 000 the deflated poverty threshold for Metro Manila was below P7,000 per month was 20 years ago, in 1987," SWS said.

The survey was conducted from June 27 to June 30 using face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults divided into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. It had a margin of error of plus-minus 3 percentage points. SWS said the survey was done on its own initiative. Ilona Bautista, Inquirer Research

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, August 22, 2007
Memorials of Mary

1st Reading	Isaiah 9:1-6
Gospel	Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. He was sent to a young virgin who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

The angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you." Mary was troubled at these words, wondering what this greeting could mean.

But the angel said, "Do not fear, Mary, for God has indeed favor on you. You shall conceive and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be if I am a virgin?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the holy child to be born shall be called Son of God. Even your relative Elizabeth is expecting a son in her old age, although she who could be have a child, and she is now in her sixth month. With God nothing is impossible."

Then Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

Commentary

The child born of Mary is the child of light, the shattering of death, the presence of joy to living. He is the future of a new humanity where there is no slavery or oppression, no hunger and want. There is no more sun, for the child is the Prince of God, dwelling with us forever. His kingdom is one of justice, possessing right-mindedness, and God is the glory of the Lord. It is the perfect kingdom for all peoples, the beloved children of God.

If there is a quest in this kingdom, then the Son of the Most Just, graced with the power, ordinarily from creation, saves those suffering the misery of the world's people who hunger for justice, and grants hope for those children to live a modest but meaningful life. People have always been there to see and the light of the world is the love of Justice. We are all called to obey the Word of the Lord and let God's will be done in accord with it to live in the reality of God's justice.

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Jpepa is all right, DOJ rules

By Leila B. Salaverria
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SOUTH KOREA'S FIVE YEARS OF DISCRIMINATORY degradation, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the Philippines could do to get impediments to the implementation of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa).

Gonzalez said the agreement shows the country would honor such effect's environmental concerns and commitments to the outward tourism that prevent commerce in toxic waste.

Hence, the agreement was valid, he said.

"Since the Jpepa recognizes the sovereignty of the governments of the parties in accordance with their respective laws and regulations, it is clear the action the Philippines would become a dumping ground for Japan's toxic waste is baseless. We have a law, Republic Act No. 6969, that prohibits the importation of hazardous and nuclear waste into the country," Gonzalez said in a memorandum to President Macapagal-Arroyo dated Aug. 14.

Gonzalez said the agreement prohibits that if the Jpepa proved harmful to the country, "we could always abrogate (it)."

The Seattle-based Basel Action Network, a network of environmental activists, earlier said the Jpepa should be rejected because it has toxic waste in among the items that could be brought into the Philippines.

Congress has yet to ratify the treaty.

The Jpepa would also improve relations between the Philippines and Japan, Gonzalez said.

"This could translate to aid. We are depending more on Japan and China now for our infrastructure," he said.

In his memorandum, Gonzalez pointed out the Jpepa's possible uphold the importance of implementing measures in accordance with the parties' laws and regulations, while another article bound parties to respect Microbiological rights and obligations under the World Trade Organization and other agreements.

He also noted that the Philippines and Japan were parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, which prohibits the export of hazardous and other waste to a party state to the convention, especially if the state uses a developing country.

The exchange of letters between Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Taro Aso and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo also confirmed Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's assurance to President Arroyo that his country would not export toxic waste to the Philippines, Gonzalez said.

The Jpepa, being a bilateral free trade agreement, also allows Mrs. Arroyo not to implement its provisions in specific circumstances by exercising general or security exceptions, Gonzalez said.

"And provisions, in effect, give the parties the authority to take measures they consider necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health... subject only to the requirement that such measures do not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination against the other party," he said.

He also pointed to Article 101, Chapter 8 of the Jpepa which states that the parties could deem it inappropriate to encourage investment in each other's country by relaxing environmental measures.

Gonzalez issued the memorandum in response to a directive by the President.

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DEXTERTON

Julia's mother recalls her in testimony

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAGAWE, IFUGAO—LINDA Campbell occasionally smiled. Then tried to hold back the tears as she described her daughter Julia and how she had grown up a promising nurse in portrait. ton in the United States to come to the Philippines as a peace corps volunteer.

Campbell of Burke, Virginia, was the first witness presented by the prosecution at the start of the trial yesterday of a young woodcarver accused of bludgeoning her 40-year-old daughter to death on April 8 so she could have a shot to view the famed Banaue rice terraces. Her body was found on April 10 in a chicken hillside grave near Banaue.

The suspect, 25-year-old Jun Donald Dumpiano, showed interest but showed no emotion.

Julia's elder sister, Tracy Campbell-Moritz, 42, took a seat in the front row and looked at her mother throughout as her 49-minute testimony. how she and her family were devastated by the loss of Julia.

"It was like someone had ripped my heart," said Linda. "Everything from that felt like that day got like worse.

If not for her death, Linda said Julia would have taken up a scholarship at the Midwest Graduate School of Public Service at New York University.

Julia had her Doctorate in nursing accompanied by visits by Gail Beck, director of the Peace Corps in the Philippines, and US Embassy officials.

Judge Esther Fiscoverifier of the regional trial court have another hand Dumpiano's plea of "not guilty" to the murder charge after the prosecution de-

LINDA. My heart was ripped out.

clined his cohorts presented by defense lawyer Pedro Obayan Jr., to plead guilty to the lesser offense of homicide.

Dumpiano surrendered 10 days after Julia's body was found near his upland home and reportedly told police he had killed her in self-of rage after he thought she was a bolt in her thigh.

Linda said she learned on April 11 that her daughter had been missing since April 8. Then, shortly before midnight on April 10, Linda received a phone call from Jun Jandres at the El Price Corpuz in Washington D.C. relaying the news of Julia's death.

Her husband, William A., was shattered, Linda said.

"Then, the entire family gathered upstairs. Pin was her hugged and prayed," she said. "My whole being was affected. I could not sleep. I could not concentrate. I could not eat or drink."

Lawyer Bernadita Agnasan-Mendoza, lead counsel for the prosecution, said he relied on Linda to testify to show the gravity of the family's loss and how they suffered as a result of Julia's death should the court acquit Dumpiano in its deadly thrust.

Linda said she takes heart in the fact that Julia's grandparents was loved by the people she served in Mrire. The children called her "Ate Julia" or "Mom, ate Julia," she said. With a report from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Erap asks to visit hospitalized ma

DETAINED FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada has asked the Sandiganbayan to allow him to visit his ailing mother as soon as possible, Mary Estrada, 102, has been confined in a hospital for the last 12 days.

Through his lawyer, Rene Saguisag, Estrada informed the antigraft court's Special Division yesterday that his mother has been confined to the San Juan Medical Center since Aug. 10 due to a fever and cough.

He said he was informed by the family's doctor, Lorenzo Reyesse, on Monday that Epredoy, who was diagnosed with pneumonia and hypertension, has difficulty breathing and had to be connected to a respirator.

"Her condition is quite unstable at the moment," Reyesse said.

Saguisag pointed out it was the first time Estrada's mother had been confined in a hospital for a long period. Jocelyn R. Ga

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Advice to lovelorn: You'll survive

From page 8

Finkel and colleague Paul Sanford, drafted young lovers—especially those who profess naked affection—to see if there are predictors of devastation marked their acceptance of what their love was not.

"On average, people overestimate how distressed they will be following a breakup," Finkel said in a telephone interview.

The nine-month study involved college students who had been dating at least two months and who filled out questionnaires every two weeks.

Finkel and Sanford gathered data from 20 people—13 women and 26 men—who broke up with their partners during the first six months of the study.

The participants' forecasts of distress two weeks before the breakup were compared to their actual experiences as recorded over four different periods of time.

Not surprisingly, the researchers found that the more people were in love, the harder they took the breakup.

"People who are more in love really are a little more upset after a breakup, but their perceptions about how distraught they will be are dramatically overstated when compared to reality," Finkel said.

"At the end of the day, it is just less bad than you thought."

Reuters

14 hurt in Zamboanga City blast

ZAMBOANGA CITY—FOURTEEN people were wounded when a bomb placed under a park bench exploded at Plaza Pershing here last night.

The 7:30 p.m. blast occurred while authorities were on full alert against possible attacks by the Abu Sayyaf group in the face of the military offensive in Sulduc and Sulu.

Senior Supt. Manuel Barroso, city police chief, said the explosive was placed under a concrete bench in the park.

The wounded were brought to the Zamboanga City Medical Center Hospital. director Dr. Benito Ong said the victims suffered minor injuries from splinters. —Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

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Nepalese teacher brings ...

From page 8

was realized. Sangji became one of the Jiktan villages linked in a single satellite network and enjoying the ability to communicate beyond distances.

For his efforts, Pun is the country's recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership.

This is the story of how Pun got his marvelous network.

One day in late 1992, a man in his mid-thirties arrived in the Nepalese village of Sangji. Tall, not outwardly talkative. Tourists have flocked to Nepal for decades, inspired in part by its connection to the fabled paradise Shangri-La.

Still, Sangji isn't nicely set up to cater to them. The Himanchal Education Foundation's website says that from the international airport in the capital city of Kathmandu, it's seven hours by bus (or a half-hour by plane) to Pokhara City, followed by a three-hour trip by car to the nearest station town (Beni), and finally a nine-hour hike to Sangji.

As Pun himself told BBC News in 2004: "If we walk about six or seven hours northeast in any direction from our village and ask the people where Sangji is, most of [them] will have no idea."

Prodigal son

The stranger to Sangji turned out to be Pun. His family had left the village nearly 25 years earlier and moved to Dhorpatan so that Pun and his siblings could attend school. At the time, Sangji only had a grade-school and a middle school.

But Pun's father, a former soldier in the British Army, wanted more for his children. After graduating from high school, Pun opted to become a teacher himself to help finance his siblings' education. Pun's journey took him to Gulmi, in Gulmi. In 1988, Pun received a scholarship at Kentucky State College.

Four years later, Pun graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney (at UNK, the college becomes part of the state university system this year) before earning a degree in education at the University of Oregon.

After encapsulating himself with things and his people, Pun set about trying to figure out what he could do for the village.

"What I saw as my first simple observation," he wrote on the Himanchal Education website, "was that the people in Pokhara or elsewhere [in Nepal] did not know much about the place and the people living there. On the other hand, the people living in the remote areas have no clear idea to seek help, or whether any help is available."

Pun became the local high school teacher for Himanchal High School that had been built during his absence.

Living in US not superior option

For three years, he taught every subject and made the monthly journey to Pokhara to check his e-mail. "It's hard losing on the mountain. Walking several hours up and down is hard," Pun conceded in a short video done later year to introduce the nonsectarian Ramon Magsaysay Awards.

He said starting in June he's were not really a unique option. "You can make money there," he noted. "And it's not better life, it's a hard life there. But I'm not forced to do whatever I don't want to do."

In 1997, students at an Australian school donated some computers to Himanchal High School, and he wanted to have the students could use to connect to the Internet. The village was too remote to have any regular phone lines, and the radio-phone that Sangji had was unreliable.

Pun decided to ask for help on behalf of Sangji.

Big dreams

Leonard Dow, former dean of the UNK College of Education, and someone who's known Pun since 1988, described the Nepalese teacher as "a visionary with big foresight and dreams."

From Pun, Dow said, "I have learned that it does not take a large financial commitment or a huge project to make a significant difference in rural Nepal. Some of the most successful and high impact activities have been identified and maintained with very little resources."

E-mails pay off

Pun went back down to Pokhara and started sending out e-mail asking for advice to set up a satellite link for Sangji. Eventually, Sangji's first village friendly in 1999 and went back to his alma mater, this time to get a master's degree in education administration.

Still, he kept e-mailing. In 2001, the BBC responded to one of his messages, interviewed him, and wrote about his quest. The Internet access project snowballed from there.

E-mails arrived in Pun's inbox, introducing him to other nations of countries across networks. The following year, two European managers showed up in Sangji with wireless cards from 3M Finland and helped Pun set up a small-scale version of what he had been reading about.

In 2003, a college student at the University of California at Los Angeles heard about the project from a friend who had gone to Sangji. The student got in touch with Pun, then applied for and received a grant to buy the needed equipment, including batteries and solar panels to power the units, to set up the wireless network.

Volunteers from all over the world have appeared in the village with swelling regularity by then, bringing information, money and electronic parts.

Good lessons on learn

By the end of 2005, Sangji had hooked its remote access, connecting its Pokhara's Internet service provider by means of several satellite antenna relays. Not only was Pun gradually known to the world, Pun was likewise able to check his e-mail from the village.

"Significant achievements are rarely the result of some big project," noted Dow, a staunch supporter of Pun's plan to improve the lives of the rural Nepalese.

"Rather, they come to evolve from many small activities. This is a good lesson for all of us," said Dow, who serves as treasurer of the Himanchal Foundation. Foundation, a nonprofit corporation he had started with a number of UNK professors.

In the last four years, Internet access and a US$10,000 grant from the World Bank have changed Sangji and the neighboring villages.

Computer courses have taught villagers how to use the computers, maintain the wireless networks, and surf the Web. Doctors in Pokhara hold audio and video conferences with remote villages to discuss cases and treatments.

Tele-teaching allows students to have classes without a teacher being physically present. Tourism has also come to Sangji, adding to the village income.

And of course, the Internet allows the villagers to keep in touch with their friends and families around the world, whether it means e-mail, Skype friends, and the villagers can talk to distant family members through VOIP or Internet services that turn the computer set as a telephone.

Alternative options

Now the villagers of Sangji are dreaming about using their children further schooling and other job prospects open from that offered by the subsist.

Also mentioned plans to improve training methods for quality control and to massively build a college in rural Nepal. Himself part of a generation whose jumping the lamp was the way to make a living, Pun is pleased to have provided alternative options to younger villagers.

"My dream is long time agos to go to a university was shattered due to financial circumstances, and this created another dream," he wrote on his webpages.

"To provide educational opportunities for the rural children so that they should not have to go through all the pain and struggle I went through. I've had a firsthand experience of how much it hurts to go through that kind of pain."

Rapid-change

In person, Pun smiles a lot, with a keen twinkle that engages the listener. Though he can't deny being the primary force behind Sangji's progress, he says he's not really to change.

"I went to my village not to be a leader but to work as a volunteer," he noted on his webpage. "The mountain environment and villages belong to the villagers who constitute over 90 percent of Nepal's population. Therefore, the efforts to develop their productivity should be tried by themselves from the very area."

Most people have to leave home to find fame and fortune. Pun went home to find both.

"Before I went to America, I told myself, 'If I change [my] mind, I'll come back to Sangji and I'll do it,'" he said in the BBC news interview last year. "And I didn't know what, but I'll do something. But I found something to do here and so I decided to stay here."

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Singaporeans bag P200-M textbook deal

By Jerry E. Esplanada

A SINGAPOREAN FIRM HAS BAGGED A P200-million contract to print English textbooks for public elementary and secondary schools nationwide, Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus has announced.

Milcon Company (E) Private Ltd. "was one of the four bids that were bid out (in May)," Lapus said in an interview.

The World Bank was "on top of this," Lapus said. Which is why he added, "Still, the past jugulobalism (it should not be doubted)."

The Department of Education "will open the bidding for the failed bid (worth over P1 billion), but based on new bid documents... and new rules," Lapus said.

Milcon won Deped textbook deals in 2003 and 2005 worth P65,877,457.68 and P202,867,458.36, respectively.

Lapus said he'd personally like "(Paul) Dabbar Strunk (of the Bookstore, as well as Sibal's supposed foreign partner, Potato Photo Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd. of Thailand) failed to garner enough votes.

"They were disqualified for many reasons. Like noncompliance with (bid) documents," among other things, Lapus said.

Earlier, Lapus had told the Inquirer that "from 25 to the pre-bid, only 10 submitted bid documents."

"From the 10, (the World Bank and Deped) checked out those that were compliant and responsive... This is a simple pruning contract. The textbook content is a different matter... This is a World Bank-funded, World Bank-supervised international competitive bidding," he said.

The other failed bidders were Book Media Press Inc., Dolce Primero, Main Choice International Development Ltd., Homeless Books Private Ltd., Star Prime (India) Private Ltd. and Thailand Asia Private Ltd.

Top contractor is Thai

Milcon's P986 million worth of documents received from the Deped in the last eight years, Allcon is currently in third place (on the department's list of suppliers of textbooks and other instructional materials).

Polaris Printing tops the list with contracts totaling more than P1.42 billion, according to Deped documents furnished this paper.

The Thai firm has covered 33 out of 109 contracts, according to records of the agency's Instructional Materials Council Secretariat (IMCS).

In the meantime, the Deped National Employees Union, the militant Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) and the Philippine Public School Teachers Association have challenged Lapus anew to break the alleged textbook cartel that controls most of the textbook contracts.

The groups assailed Lapus and his predecessors for "looking the other way" and letting the cartel thrive.

On hearing of the groups' challenge, Lapus assailed the critics of the Deped, particularly those who were in previous administrations, saying "they are the ones who should apologize."

"Why? All the textbook errors happened during their watch," he said.

Antonio Tinio, chair of the 10,000-strong ACT, said the Deped's "centralized procurement system" was to blame for the problem.

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Corrections

IN THE AUG. 20 ISSUE, a follow-up article on Page C1—"A blast from Tita King"—mentioned the age of Memorial Artist Laureate Retelig. She is turning 98—not 85—on Aug. 21.

* * *

THE SAME ARTICLE also mentioned the surname of the dean of the Philippine Women's University School of Music. The dean is Hon-Ild Eslinger—not Gulinger.

* * *

IN LATER EDITIONS of the same issue, one of the stories on Page 4 front page reads—"Changes at top law office"—should have read: "The one has stayed long enough at the DepEd to do a thorough job of cleaning up a symbolic disgrace"—not Arroyo—"holders of Grenli membership."

* * *

Readers may mail their requests for correction of factual errors in articles to the Inquirer, Philippine Daily, Inquirer, 185 Yakal St., Makati City; fax them to 896-6160; or e-mail them to newsdesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Noynoy sees similarity between GMA, Marcos

Front page A-1

Education Secretary Florencio Abad Jr. said Jesus' mother, the widow of para freedom fighter Jose Burgos.

Nevertheless, the Senator formally acknowledged Gertrude Aquino's presence while commemorating Ninoy Aquino's death.

However Aquino's father was also a minister when Marcos declared martial law in 1972, abolished Congress and cancelled civil liberties.

VERY IMPORTANT VICTIMS. Following a visit to the VIP fence in gallery in Senate on her son Noynoy deliver his first privilege speech, ex-President Cory Aquino chooses to sit beside Edita Burgos, holding home the poster that clung on both victims of new political killings. Enough from different times. ALEX BADAYOS

Uncaring, incompetent

"The older leaders were shot dead on the terrace of what is now the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, while in the custody of soldiers as he returned from US exile on Aug. 21, 1983, to challenge the dictatorship.

"The attitude that this administration has adopted is the Jesse Burgos case and, indeed, on the entire issue of political killings and disappearances—complacent at worst, uncaring and incompetent at the very least—forces a chilling similarity to the attitudes of that administration that stood by, watched and did nothing as my father was murdered," Aquino said.

He cited research conducted by political scientist Alfred McCoy, who estimated that there were at least 3,257 victims of political killings during martial law. Some 2,520 of the victims were summarily executed while the rest remain unaccounted for and are presumed dead.

Burden of responsibility

Senator Aquino then cited sources from some human rights groups—which became the subject of an investigation by the United Nations—claiming that more than 800 activists, leftist leaders, journalists, lawyers and judges had been extensively executed since Mr. Arroyo assumed office in 2001.

"This political killings by Noynoy Aquino's members, and that of many members of the police, especially those they are threatened by the very institutions that are mandated to protect and preserve them," Aquino said.

"It is because of this responsibility that we, who now enjoy these rights and freedoms, should refuse to accept that the restoration of democracy, however incomplete it might yet be, has halted the likes of Jesus and Edita Burgos," he said.

Noynoy Aquino's assumption—he rebuts it—address allegation were eventually corrected and sentenced to life in prison—several months public outrage that led to the ouster of the 20-year Marcos dictatorship through the 1986 Edsa People Power revolt.

Search for mastermind

Despite new lead finding conspiracies and two trials, the mastermind of the murder has not been exposed to this day.

Talking briefly with reporters, Mr. Aquino said the jailed soldier could provide a "dynamite" to the exhumation of her husband by spilling the beans on who the instructions was.

Support for SC proposals

In his speech, Senator Aquino urged his colleagues to throw their full support behind the recommendations resulted by the Supreme Court's Justice's national consultative summit on extrajudicial killings last month.

Three recommendations include defining "extrajudicial killing" through legislation, passing a law allowing searches of military persons in military camps, and issuing supreme rules for the writ of habeas corpus for cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

"My father died to bring democracy back to life to you country. It was the highest possible price anyone could have paid," said Aquino.

"It is now up to us to make the restoration of democracy work for our citizens, so that never again should any person's life be sacrificed in the name of his beliefs."

GMA skips Mass for Aquino

By Jaime Laleng Jarellano

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo skipped the commemoration yesterday of the 24th death anniversary of late Senator "Ninoy" Aquino in favorite of pressing issues in Mindanao that her image director said the President told her she was preoccupied with the problem in Mindanao.

Lupita Aquino Kashiwahara, Ninoy's youngest sister who is serving in Mr Arroyo's image director, said the President told her she was preoccupied with the problem in Mindanao.

"I'm focusing on the Talitsad Ninoy's today," Kashiwahara quoted Mr Arroyo as saying.

Kashiwahara said she understood Mr Arroyo's hectic schedule and would not just insist on Mr Arroyo's absence at the commemoration rites.

"She's very busy. Today is a sacred day for her. It's the Cabinet meeting also," Kashiwahara said in a phone interview. "So she's very burdened on her work," she said.

If Ninoy had come home to cheers . . .

Front page A-1

military reasons and he was able to assume his political hostile against the Marcos dictatorship?

Two of Aquino's political contemporaries suggested that the struggle for Philippine democracy might have taken a longer, rougher path, not necessarily leading to something to promise as the 1986 People Power revolution, had Aug. 21, 1983, never been assassinated.

A darker scenario was offered by a retired educator who has since been replaced. Aquino's legacy among the people. The country might have fallen under a military junta had Ninoy lived on without successfully leading many moves against then President Ferdinand Marcos.

Fall of Marcos

The fall of Marcos could still have happened, but only "much later," according to former Senate President Jovito Salonga, one of Aquino's senior colleagues in the pre-martial law Liberal Party.

Salonga said "[Ninoy] expected that he would be imprisoned again" as Fort Bonifacio but "he also expected that Marcos will call him out" for help in calling the communist insurgency and the Moro separatist movement.

Salonga said Aquino also told him that he expected Marcos to release him from detention and allow the restoration of democracy on the condition that the dictator and his family leave the country within four months.

Aquino, however, still didn't know at the time that the Marcoses had already been "hiding their wealth abroad . . . as early as 1968," he added.

Power struggle

Upon Aquino's return, the political opposition enjoyed a power struggle within its ranks.

With apparent frankness, Salonga said he didn't think Aquino would have been allowed by the LP at that time to take on the party leadership due to his earlier clash of personalities with the dictator.

But for him, Aquino's, a human rights lawyer during the Marcos dictatorship and one of the opposition leaders waiting for Aquino at the airport in August 1983, Ninoy would have easily taken on the leadership of the opposition after his return home.

Aquino said the Marcos regime already teetering on the edge in 1983 by man of the economic crisis.

Aquino's assassination, he said, hastened the dictatorship's fall.

He allowed Ninoy's death

"Marcos' problems at that time was more financial than political. Our economy was in tatters. We couldn't not pay our foreign debts. In fact, we defaulted on our payments," Aquino said.

He said Aquino said Marcos knew what the other was thinking and celebrated their moves vis-à-vis the political and economic situation.

"Both Ninoy and Marcos knew and understood this only too well. In that double situation, there was Ninoy's greatness and Marcos' folly," Aquino told the historian. "Faced with certain death, Ninoy limited coming home. Marcos allowed [Ninoy's death]."

Former De La Salle University president Bro. Bernardo Oliver, who is 2003 laureate the Benigno Aquino Jr. Awards by Mercedarian, answered the "what if" question in broader strokes: "To a large extent, we owe him the freedom we enjoy today. We would still probably be under martial law [had Ninoy not arisen] and [so] he is not with us [yet]."

Military van driver insists Galman shot Aquino

By Fe Zamora

ON THE EVE OF THE 24th GRIM REMINDER of Benigno Aquino Jr., the driver of the military van that carried the senator's bloodied body from the Manila International Airport tarmac to the hospital entrance has claims that he saw Rolando Galman shoot the senator.

In an interview, IPO4 Ruben Custodio Imbao also renewed his appeal to the government to "reopen the case" and "shed all fears" to bring to court former Air Force Capt. Felipe Valerio Jr., leader of the 10-man unit assigned to secure Aquino on his arrival from US exile on Aug. 21, 1983.

Custodio Imbao, who is now a member of the Philippine National Police Aviation Security Group, maintained that Valerio, then his immediate superior in the defunct Philippine Air Force's Aviation Security Command (Avescom), "holds the key" to the case.

"He must know," Custodio Imbao said of Valerio, a 1974 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy.

Arrest warrant

Chief Public Attorney Persida Rueda-Acosta said a warrant of arrest was issued by the Sandiganbayan for Valerio on Nov 11, 2005. She said the Department of Justice had also approved her motion for the government to have Valerio extradited from the United States.

"But the DOJ has not acted on the motion in the sense that it has not endorsed the process," Acosta said.

According to her, Valerio had used the alias "Felipe Isidro" while working as a commercial pilot in Seattle, Washington.

Custodio Imbao said he last saw Valerio during the Sandiganbayan trial in 1986.

Custodio Imbao said he was seated inside the van with Valerio when he saw Galman "quickly pull out a gun and shoot Aquino." He said he escaped being charged in the conspiracy case because "I was negative for powder burns."

Rolling order

He said Valerio also gave orders that continue to baffle him to this day.

Leaving the tarmac with the body of Aquino, Custodio Imbao said as he drove general stopped the van at the gate of Villamor Air Base, and signaled to ask if Aquino was dead by "flicking his neck with his hand."

"He (Valerio) told me to ensure the signal, and the general gave a thumbs-up sign and allowed us to pass," Custodio Imbao said.

He said Valerio also instructed him to drive to the Philippine Army's Military Security Unit where the group waited for about 20 minutes for the signal to enter the compound. Instead, once in the MSU, Valerio then ordered him to drive to the Army hospital.

"Why did Valerio not order me to drive to the hospital in Villamor, which was nearer the tarmac? Why did we have to go to the MSU? But I was just a driver, so I just obeyed," Custodio Imbao said in Filipino.

'They congratulated us'

Later that night, Custodio said AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel C. Ver, Metrocom chief Maj. Gen. Prospero Olivas, then chief of the Metrocom intel Avescom chief Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio paid a surprise visit to the Avescom office. "They congratulated us for a job well done," he said.

Custodio Imbao also said he decided to come out with his story to help clear the names of his colleagues who were convicted for the murder of Aquino.

"They are already old. I will retire next year," he added.

Issue of closure splits Ninoy kin

From page A1

what happened on Aug. 21, 1983.

Aquino was shot with a single bullet fired in the back of his head moments after he disembarked from a China Airlines jet escorted by soldiers on his return from three years of self-exile in the United States to mobilize the fractured opposition against Marcos.

"In my view, the real mastermind has been punished," the senator said without naming his main suspect, Marcos. "He's not only dead, but the last years of his life, how he lived ... I can't really say I'm really convinced that he's dead."

Aquino's younger brother Agapito, 68, agreed with Kiamzon, who told the Inquirer on Monday that there was no direct evidence to link Marcos or the other prime suspect, the late Gen. Fabian Ver, his Armed Forces chief of staff, to the murder.

"We may not know exactly who was the mastermind but we still have our own deep-seated conclusions wherein it wouldn't have happened without the consent of FM," said the former movie actor, senator and congressman, using Marcos' initials.

No complete justice

"We will not attain complete justice in this particular case. It's something that we have already accepted," he said. "The conspiracy principals are all dead. The involvement of all others are in the realm of speculation."

Father Robert leads OFWs to honor Aquino

By Blandie Rivera

HONG KONG—WITH HOPES FOR A BETter life among low-paying overseas Filipino workers here, a critic of the Arroyo administration led Filipinos in 21 minutes of prayer at the Philippine consulate to commemorate the 24th death anniversary of the late Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr.

Fr. Robert Reyes, known as the "singing priest" when he was based in Manila, sought "grace" for the government to respond to 24 challenges hurled at the Arroyo administration.

The challenges included the welfare of OFWs, widespread corruption, extrajudicial killings, the all-out war in Mindanao, the massive brain drain and the welfare of local workers in the Philippines.

Reyes said his prayers could the fluxy of activities of domestic workers who were either renewing their contracts or passports, or paying fines.

He also gave out stamps media to the OFWs in the consensus to stress his point that they were the needs planned in the fight for freedom waged by Aquino before he was assassinated in 1983.

Even as Reyes hailed Aquino as a hero whose death should continue to give people hope and a reason to dream for themselves and their country, he criticized local TV shows hosted by the late senator's youngest child, Kris Aquino.

INQUIRER

OPINION

Impossible dream?

JUSTICE WAS ILL-SERVED WHEN RETIRED CHIEF Justice Andres Narvasa said the book on the assassination of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. should be closed. Narvasa said the commission in which he had worked—at times, to the extent that it irked the dictator Ferdinand Marcos—had already unearthed the truth or came as close to it as is humanly possible. That truth resided in the conviction of some soldiers, but it never revealed who the mastermind was behind Ninoy's killing. No point in further trying to find out, Narvasa said.

EDITORIAL

Narvasa recalled that "the burning question at that time was whether it was President Marcos or the First Lady (Imelda Marcos)" who ordered the killing. He even recalled public suspicions concerning the alleged involvement of businessman Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. in the murder. That question lurks still. But Narvasa said, "I have to be frank there was no evidence pointing either way... There was no direct evidence. They remained speculations."

Today, even former President Corazon Aquino has publicly stated she wouldn't oppose executive clemency for the soldiers who have been convicted for the crime and who remain in jail. They were the only ones caught in the net of justice during her presidency. The late dictator himself died abroad and never ended up being deposed in court or properly investigated about the assassination. Gen. Fabian Ver, too, avoided the long arm of the law until the day he died.

And by 1983, the restorations of the disgraced and dispossessed leaders of the New Society had well and truly begun. It will be recalled that had Imelda Marcos and Cojuangco combined their forces, their combined votes would have defeated all other contenders for the presidency. As it was, their individual votes were remarkable and politically formidable. In a sense, it paved the way for the defeat of the Cebu 1 political forces with the election of an unrepentant Marcos loyalist, Joseph Estrada, to the vice presidency in 1992 and to the presidency in 1998.

We forget, too, the circumstances surrounding Ninoy Aquino's return home. Imelda Marcos had gone to see him. She issued a warning: there were people loyal to them and whom they could not control and they might kill him. She offered him financial inducements not to go home. He refused the offer.

And yet today Narvasa maintains, "Doña Imelda, I don't think was deeply involved ... in such a dreadful thing. Maybe (she knows something) because she's the President's wife, she could not have been excluded from conversations by President Marcos." The record tells us the "something" she knew at the time was quite specific; and that her enemies for Aquino could have been feigned. This certainly deserves further investigation, precisely because the distance is dead.

Explaining his decision to come home, Aquino told his friends: "When we start to feel the pain of those who have been victimized by tyranny, it's only then we can liberate ourselves... The feeling right now is, 'Fred was tortured, thank God it's Fred, not me.' That's the tragic part. Society is atomized. Until the Filipino nation can feel the loss of one life as if it was their own, we'll never liberate ourselves."

Liberate ourselves we did; the rallying cry of those days was, "Justice for Aquino, Justice for All." It included demands for his killers to be exposed. That demand has only partially been fulfilled. Now Narvasa, who most zealously sought the truth, whatever the cost, thinks it's time to declare the quest ultimately defeated.

Were we to adopt Narvasa's suggestion, the ultimate lesson here would be the ultimate victory of the dictator's attitude toward the law: that style matters more than substance. Narvasa said the Narvasa Commission did its work, it filed its report and now the case "is finished, *functus officio*." The paperwork may be done, but the case remains ultimately unresolved.

Ferdinand is dead, Imelda lives. Ver is dead, Cojuangco lives. At worst, half of the main suspects do not only remain alive, they are living within our shores instead of in exile. Tomorrow is thought from bloom, as long as his murder remains unsolved, until the public feels that the case has been pursued to its ultimate end, what hope is there that the ever-multiplying cases of political assassination since then will ever be resolved, too?

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From a badge of shame to 30,000 homes

As I See It
Neal H. Cruz

THE PRESS REPORTED SEVERAL DAYS AGO that the Supreme Court decision declaring as void the provisional 1985 contract with S-E Builders Inc. (SEI) to turn the notorious Smokey Mountain dump into a 6-ha core housing and commercial area.

Smokey Mountain was the huge mound of garbage in Tondo, Manila. After every dumping, the garbage of Manila and neighboring cities and municipalities on it, the mound became so big it resembled a hill or a small mountain. Meltwater from burning organic materials seeped up and the garbage kept within the walls began to burn. Smoke from the burning trash billowed like a dark cloud over the hundreds of scavengers gathering recyclable materials among the garbage. Said to emit cheaper, they gave the poor the right to scavenge for a living.

Newspaper photographs and television footage of the men, women and children picking and taking stuff—or huge piles of smoldering coals were vividly etched in the minds of Filipinos and people around the world. It gave the country world a graphic view of poverty. Philippine-style: garbage human beings have ever invented of trash, smoke swirling around them. It was the ultimate symbol of poverty, a modern "Dante's Inferno" in the morning fresh. Hence the name Smokey Mountain.

Smokey Mountain became a status quo. Justice actually came to the Philippines to see the shameful existence of those scavenging to keep body and soul together in a hatch of human environments. It became so shameful that President Corazon Aquino decided to wipe it off the face of the earth. She had the idea of turning that mound of trash, the badge of shame, into a housing project for the thousands of scavengers who eclipsed existing out of it.

In 1992, she ordered the National Housing Authority to enter into a joint-venture agreement with S-E Builders of Tegina Romanos to construct 30 buildings to house over 20,000 families in the area. The agreement stipulated that there would be no budget outlay from the government. S-E was to spend for the entire project. As compensation, S-E was to own 75 hectares of forbidden lands it would reclaim. The area was later increased to 220 hectares.

In the project, would cost billions of pesos, S-E reserved over an outer pool arrangement with a number of government financial institutions. In exchange for Smokey Mountain Project-in-Certificates, the Social Security System, Home Development Mutual Fund, Government Service Insurance System, Philippine National Bank, Home Guarantee Corp., BCC Provident Fund, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Pagcor) and other financial institutions (collectively known as PI) billion to handcuff the project. These institutions have earned handsome profits from the contributors.

Still, the project was out of money. In 2002, President Macapagal-Arroyo released P460 million to continue the project, on the condition that the contract with S-E would be cancelled. The original contract was terminated on Aug. 27, 2003. But the government promised to pay S-E P203 million or to cancel from the P460 million fund to settle partially the expenses the developer had incurred.

In 2006, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking to declare the original contract null and void. He noted a number of issues that make the MOU not S-E may validly reclaim foreshore lands to those an inalienable public lands which are beyond the commerce of man, that there was never any declaration that the reclaimed lands no longer needed for public use—that the developer could not acquire the lands because there was never any law authorizing the sale; that there was never any public bidding of the lands; and that S-E Builders, as a private corporation, was expressly prohibited by the Constitution to acquire lands of the public domain.

Last Aug. 15, the Supreme Court dismissed Chavez's petition and upheld the legality of the government contract with S-E. Site by one, the Court demolished his arguments.

It said the NHA has the power to reclaim lands and transfer them to its private partner in return for works, cladding.

It rejected Chavez's claim that only the Public Estates Authority (PEA) could reclaim submerged lands, saying EO 525 creating the PEA did not say the power was exclusive.

The second conclusion, the PEA's endorsement, was one present because to general manager was a member of the executive committee tasked to supervise the project's implementation.

The Court also pushed Chavez's claim that the reclaimed lands were given by the NHA to S-E through a negotiated contract and not by public bidding as the law requires. It noted that S-E had paid the right to purchase the NHA's partners for the project through public bidding.

It said that the lands that the SEI waters, hence to S-E were not lands of the public domain, the sale of which requires public bidding, and that the 1985 MOU constituted an outright proprietary bargained as other parties, hence there was no need for them to authorize the sale of reclaimed lands. It added the lands reclaimed for the Smokey Mountain project have been declared alienable and disposable by three presidential proclamations.

Rebutting Chavez's claim that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources did not authorize the SEI-S and S-E to reclaim lands, the Court said the authority to do so came from the President, who has power over the DENR.

With the decision, S-E's project to construct homes for 20,000 Smokey Mountain families can now go full blast.

Sightings

There's the Rub
Conrado de Quiros

I NEVER REALLY BECAME A GREAT FAN OF Elvis; I caught him too early in life. I was a child when he was in his prime, and I was scarred a decade later under the "British Invasion" inspired by the advent of the Beatles.

I do know a couple of people a few years older than me who were big fans of Elvis and could also know every Elvis song and movie and could win a trip to Las Vegas or Graceland in trivia contests on him.

I do recall as well during his (only) years following a brief stint in the military as our neighborhood sparring Don Jacinto, reputedly put back in years after the ravages of wine and physical exertion by a rapid number of slapping the liver of the hair forward and backward, wearing jeans and T-shirt, and strutting around the neighborhood to give the impression to others—although their voices caught Elvis they can. Sometimes they sang in the wee hours of evening (when I dread 10:00 p.m. was dead of night), with the fireworks energy (and loudness) of their duel, their favorite song, "Don't You Cry." which was the not exercised upward movement of many a parent who had to wake up early to handle their kids off to school and to go to work themselves, in effect of a better performance than Elvis. "Wrong person Elvis!" is not a recommendation of "Don't Be Cruel."

The Elvis worshippers called themselves rock, ironically also called them punk. That was long before "punk" carried any kind of counter-responsibility.

I know I never got that deeply influenced by Elvis because I never sported the pompadour hair I did, however, like my classmates, wear the leopard-skin shirts every time, which made my head like those of my classmates, look like the top of a map. We called the Elvis dishes the point, everybody then called it Elvis.

I remember those things last week with all the news in 1956, 500, and before about the celebration of Elvis' 50th death anniversary and the back-slider that sprang out of the woodwork as to do someone from Las Vegas to Graceland to Memphis and The world's entertainment analysts of why Elvis continues to earn the kind of funds he does—he has made a lot more money dead than a lot of musicians alive—but also why he never achieved the kind of immortality he should have. The immortality he has. Elvis, luminously to this day the world sings the Beatles tenaciously to this day. Those are two different things, the second exactly being the first superior achievement.

Frankly, I don't know how those analysts would have missed the most obvious reason to their question. It's true of course that the difference between Elvis and the Beatles is that Elvis did not compose his songs but only sang them. Lennon, Paul and George wrote and sang their own songs.

And it's even true that Elvis' contribution to popular music was more to the popular than to the music. He practiced "devil's music" to angelic heights, making music that had attained the likes of—it's more than—he. It started out as bogus proportions—acoustic, and so enjoyable, so white cats. The Beatles' smoothie was more to the music—here are the popular things, there are the classics—but it was based on old ones. They made pop sound like it did then. They sang "Don't Be Cruel" what you can sing "Don't Let Me Down"?

And it's still even truer that with hindsight being 20-20 vision and history being lived from then on, Elvis is destroyed into a caricature of why he never quite made the same lasting impact as the Beatles, a the very home of Elvis took orders or wannabes that crowded out of the woodwork to pay their homage. Most of them were very talented, very hard-working artists and praise (which showed off their pudgy middles), and looked ready to, well, do Las Vegas rather than do rock'n'roll. That says Elvis, first is a parody of Elvis. Or that is a parody of the parody of Elvis, the caricature parody being done by none other than Elvis himself.

That was the tragedy of the King, that he rose from puppet to king financially and turned from king to puppet musically. That the man who had come from Tupelo, Mississippi, the gospel, blues and rhythm and blues from the various pickers in the Delta and molded it up like a sponge would have lost only the cloth of some and the cloth of imposters and fall prey to Elvis a musician of the first water, and would turn into pornography, the rebel would turn the bowler of the faith, "Hollywood Rock" would turn to "You Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog," Muddy Waters would turn to Col Parker. Elvis, the smuggler would turn to his and sequestered. The American Dream, the American nightmare. Last week, I missed the morning in my neighborhood singing, "Don't Be Cruel."

I myself have had an Elvis sighting—at least big—it never works. That was the night and sound of Jim Liberato's boys from Tondo rapping about life in the very fine bars, in whom the name began the name badge.

What could I say? The King is alive and well, but he ain't so he found he'd checked.

A laughable proposal

THE PROPOSAL FLOATED BY HOUSE DEPUTY Minority Leader Rolly Golez to form a "shadow Cabinet" that would "perform oversight activities" to check/monitor a sitting government should have been greeted as a figment of a feeble imagination, but for the fact that it opens monstrous possibilities for hilarious consequences.

Golez, who identifies himself with the national "opposition," wants to be taken seriously as a functional, albeit, spoof of the Arroyo Cabinet on second monthly salaries. He is best remembered as the postmaster general of Ferdinand Marcos' martial law regime who vowed to deliver the mail to Metro Manila within one day, and succeeded. That ended his reputation as one of the bright young members of the regime's "kitchen cabinet."

Now Golez seeks to bring the notion of getting things done to a perennially gridlocked and sedentary Congress, saying: "The shadow Cabinet will perform oversight activities, as well as serve as critical partners in crafting priority measures." There is, he continues, "absolutely no need to amend the presidential system, which is built on the concept of checks and balances. The term is essential with the Westminster parliamentary system where the chamber of deputies (in the British system, the House of Commons) is the seat of both the government and opposition benches, the legislative and executive functions are based in parliament and the Cabinet is the real seat of executive power. Implicit in this division of the house is a well-defined party system."

Golez's proposal in the House do not understand what he is talking about. All they know is that dreadful and scary word to sound for opposition—"Shadow"—a badge of honor generations of Filipino politicians, including Benigno Aquino Jr. and Jovito Salonga, have worn proudly and to earn as their mental legacy to the rambunctious Philippine democracy.

I view Golez's rather revolutionary proposal from its operational aspects of traversing the

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

Golez, in effect, seeks a short cut to install the parliamentary system without the benefit of constitutional amendment, by mashing through the backdoor one of the key elements of the parliamentary systems: a Cabinet headed by a prime minister chosen by elected members of parliament. His proposal also poses a challenge to Filipinos to preserve the makeshift political innovations.

A shadow Cabinet is such a convention. Filipinos communicators are subjected until the end of the proposal by reducing it to an exercise of "shadowing" the sitting government, as though it were a basketball game, where team-to-team guarding is a crucial winning strategy.

The proposal is rife with endless possibilities for short-circuiting governance or farce. It seeks to perform ahead of substance. For example, who is going to hunt for government in the Question Hour that we don't have a prime minister? To apply the notion of a shadow Cabinet would require the physical visualization of the Batasan, whose meeting arrangements are designed to foster consensus, giving our Congress the atmosphere of a arena, which it is.

The central furniture in a Westminster plenary hall is the long, rectangular table across which government ministers and their prospective replacements, the shadow Cabinet, confront each other during Question Hour to debate alternative policy issues. Given the fragmented state of the opposition, who will form the 8 to 10 shadow ministers for foreign affairs, defense, finance, the treasury, or home affairs (interior)? The notion of accountability would also compel Golez to find the shadow substitution of seats: 91 Lakas; 44 Kampi; 23 NPC (the government); and 13 NP; 23 LP; 4 LDP; 4 PDP-Laban; 4 PMP for the opposition. Who will speak for the "opposition," Golez? The notion of opposition and government as a great divider has been blurred by the euphemism of inquiry and minority.

Maybe, Golez is not serious after all, and he just wants to provoke a debate that will highlight the absurdities of the presidential system.

Golez, however, is dead serious about his proposal to change the presidential system. Golez does not say how the shadow Cabinet would work within the presidential system, without dismantling it and replacing the system with the parliamentary system, while essentially operating along the lines of the Westminster model.

Golez's proposal implies the abolition of appointing members of the presidential system and the existence of ideologically well-defined political parties, which can be classified into opposition or government parties and can be physically seated in parliament accordingly. Golez says, in effect, making an elaborate show of the presidential system and a call for its replacement by wealth with the parliamentary system when he called for the formation of a shadow Cabinet.

In a 1999 speech in Manila, late Raul Roco of the Liberal Party declared that Filipinos were in a scathing indictment of the Philippine presidential system, when he said: "The Philippines has an American-style Constitution, one of the most difficult to operate in the world. There is a complete separation of powers between the executive, legislature and judiciary. But a developing country faced with disorder and under development needs a strong, honest government."

Earlier, he told Time magazine in an interview: "I don't see any of the American countries wanting to copy our political system. I am ashamed to admit the American system. Why can't you answer 200 odd years of this? The one basic reason we, namely the Philippines, that modeled itself on America has become a negative example."

Fil-Am in a strange world

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT DR. NORI CHUA, 47, the Filipino-American tourist, who has been languishing in a Georgia jail for nearly a year without bail, will be released on Aug. 31 to await trial.

Editorial Writers, a reporter for the New York-based Filipino Reporter, who has been keeping the country updated on developments in the case, said no exact date has been given but the trial is expected to get underway by September.

Most believe the positive is at last over the result of pressure from Chua's many supporters, particularly Filipino-American leaders in Georgia, who have, said Silvestre, "conducted a vigorous campaign to publicize the case both to raise public awareness and to pressure the legal system to drop all the charges."

Silvestre notes that he has gathered information that the federal government refused to take over the case from the Camden County District Attorney's Office and transfer the case both to Georgia, "leaving Dr. Stephen Kelley in charge of the prosecution."

It was Kelley who decided to file murder charges against Chua for the death of James Carver III, a college student, professor and ex-participant in the Olympics. Carver died of drug overdose after he visited Chua's office in 2006. Carver had complained to the police that Chua had sold him drugs during his visit. Chua and added drugs charges along with the murder indictment. The doctor was also charged under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) statute, which gave authorities the power to take control of all his assets, and left him without resources for his defense.

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN informed of the latest developments, Chua told the Reporter, "I'm very happy. I feel like God loves me very much. It's time for the whole truth to come out."

According to The Reporter, Chua also told his supporters "words of thanks by e-mail. "I praise and thank God for each one of you," wrote Chua. "Your efforts have finally received enough attention to my plight and I am now headed for a trial.... Only God in an extremely rare circumstance can intervene. I have total confidence that this justice will prevail during the trial. May the Lord bless and keep each one of you all the time."

Every horror news is that the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations (NaFFAA), the biggest Filipino-American advocacy group in the United States, has offered its support to the Fil-Am community in Georgia in its quest for justice for Chua.

Silvestre said Chua's main concerns right now are that his legal expenses "overwhelming" for a supplemented by a high-powered lawyer insured as "the best in Georgia and the rest of the US Southeastern firmament."

His lawyer, Donald Samuel, is a criminal law expert who has published numerous articles and journals. In talks with Fil-Am community leaders, Samuel said that "there is no case against Dr. Chua" and that the death of Carver was "accidental," as supported by the autopsy and toxicology reports.

Various Fil-Am groups in Georgia and elsewhere have already raised funds for Chua's defense, but without access to his private funds, he can only rely on donations to ensure he gets the quality legal advice he needs.

*** * ***

BUT the bad news is that the money and most of the financial and medical records of Chua are now in the hands of a receiver, one appointed by the State to manage the assets of those who were prosecuted in the Fil-Am theme of insurance fraud.

It was at the request of Kelley that Chua's assets, including his medical practice, were "seized and placed in a receivership in Atlanta managed by attorney Michael Lambros and his partner." Lambros then, according to Silvestre, "hired a Chua lawyer, as a local newspaper, "Mr. Lambros and his receivership have had full access to all of Dr. Chua's medical records, the clerks in his office, and other information prior to the District Attorney and Chua himself, despite the court's appointment to investigate his billing practices."

And yet, "on the eve of Dr. Chua's trial ... which a federal attorney has already declared to much for what appears to be lack of evidence, and with the DA said has been trying to get Dr. Chua to agree to a plea bargain, which Dr. Chua has refused, Attorney Lambros comes up with this notion of insurance fraud and give Mr. Kelley's permission to proceed."

It is far too much to ask reporters to investigate as if Mr. Lambros' firm is in fact a disinterested party in this matter?" asks White. "Who seems intended them from among the many receiverships available, including some in this area? Have they been paid handsomely for their services, and is it otherwise, to see if the parties arrayed against Dr. Chua, in particular to anyone in the District Attorney's office? to short, a thin Fifth-Street accounting by Mr. Lambros pose a misdirection or down a barrel, as Prohibition as a great deal has been blistered by the euphemism of inquiry and minority.

AND so the case of Dr. Nori Chua, meddlesome humane graduates, 11th player in the medical school, who has put in the most productive practice in Paterson before he moved to the United States for his specialty training and practice, soon finds good cause to find notes, from Brad-ly-seeing glimmers of the light of justice, only to see it snuffed out once again shadows about it.

One thing this case should teach us is that no matter how accomplished a Filipino can become in the United States, no matter the adoption of American citizenship, the collection of material comforts and social and professional prestige, a single incident can wipe out this cause of mockery and plunge him or her into the strange, unfamiliar world of the American justice system.

Perhaps his ethnicity has nothing to do with his plight, but I can't help but think that if Chua had been Caucasian, he would have been made to suffer so much as he has already.

Boystown, Girlstown

AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, MANY OF US HAVE HAD trouble help-out a poor but bright child through high school. It leads to start out well, with glowing reports and grades, and then something happens. The parents move often, the student loses nothing about the school and losing into bad company, school drops, and later opens in between crafts, about a pregnancy. Sometimes the child is self-working hard at school, but is over-

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

whelmed by problems at home or is in the wrong crowd.

I've avoided questioning students in high school, quite frankly. There's just too much that can go wrong. And yet, I've wondered at times if you could just put them in a greenhouse environment, sheltered from the world and given special care so they can concentrate on their studies.

It turns out there is such a place: Boystown and Girlstown (yes, boys separate!) in Silang, Cavite. They're part of a global network of World Villages for Children begun by an Australian, Fr. Alexander Tarnow. Founded in Australia in 1946, Father Tarnow eventually set up many of his "villages" in the Philippines, Guatemala, Mexico and Brazil. He died in 1992, but a congregation he set up, the Sisters of Mary, continues his work. It is currently headed by a Iranian, Sr. Michaela Kim.

Secret

Driving along the South Luzon Expressway, I've seen huge neon and Globetron many times from afar, but it wasn't until last week that I finally got to visit, on the invitation of Ms Marisa Primo, the boystown's chair.

The event I attended was the inauguration of town green house at Boystown, headed by Lando Tan, who personally attended together with another intern, Washington Syjuco. The greenhouse allows students to gain entry experiences with agriculture, while producing vegetables for their own school.

I thought the greenhouse was such an appropriate metaphor for the work Boystown does: put an isolated, sheltered set of the poorest of families to receive an education they would only dream of. The kids have to be nominated by their parish priest, and should have been doing well in elementary school. The nuns themselves visit the families to make sure the child comes from a family in need (no grand are there that), then there are better off families that try to get their child in...

Ms Primo described the history of Mary facilities as "one of the best kept secrets in the country." And indeed it is. No one here have worked very quietly without fanfare or publicity per what they do would put many of our other educational institutions to shame.

Boystown and Girlstown are actually similar to the boarding schools you usually associate with the rich. Both are high schools, built on sprawling grounds with full facilities: classrooms, science labs, computers, several cars, sawmill, basketball courts for the boys, a huge gym/auditorium, a swimming pool. All the students live on campus throughout the year, except for two weeks when they get to go home. They have an allowance, but all their expenses are paid for: tuition, board and lodging, even uniforms and rubber shoes when needed by your level.

What is so amazing is that 30-family members (including 14 nuns) are able to run the facilities for 2,300 male students and 1,600 female students, all of family for Girlstown, but there they have 3,600 students.

The Cavite facilities take care of children from all over Luzon. In Cebu, they have another two institutions for children from the Visayas and Mindanao.

Values

I will be honest and say that I had mixed feelings about the greenhouse approach. I was relieved to know they still have how to write letters, given that they don't have cell phones (more relief!) but, I kept wondering, with such a cloistered life, were they going to be prepared for the real world?

It's hard to be conclusive from a half-day visit, but I'm inclined to be optimistic. I got to interview some of the kids, starting with the trustees, when I approached them and introduced myself, they huddled together, coming their books to listen. There was a look in their eyes that was a mix of curiosity, enthusiasm and painful shyness.

The sophomores were the most outspoken. When I got to the session, the self-esteem and confidence were very clear. There was still a bit of the shyness, but they were more assertive and articulate, without the cocky, even arrogant, qualities you see in other 16- and 17-year-olds.

They're in trends, I thought to myself as I watched their program with an impressive repertoire: a medley which has two several competitive numbers, a choral group that did a jazz number (a capella!), and dance numbers (with pants! pants from Globetron). The two dozen-speaks English flawlessly but not at the cost of Filipino: all the children I spoke to, including non-Tagalogs, were very comfortable with Filipino.

What was so striking was that they were not much different from us urban, where I'd ask what they intended to do after they were finished at boystown, they'd answer, "Mag-nurse ho." I realized many did intend to reach eight years, but that if they were given the chance, they'd try college. Most wanted to be engineers, business people or teachers. I have they were already practical choices, but the experience of a classroom talking about becoming a doctor, or a lawyer, and one shyly asked me what courses one needed to take to become a journalist.

Yes, they have their own world in there, but all the kids share their roots in the harsh realities of poverty; their coming to Boystown and Girlstown is to expose the children to new horizons. I met students from Ilocos Sur, Bicolandia, Quezon, Romblon, Albay, Surigao, Mountain Province and Bikolano. I knew friendships were being built, transcending regions and languages.

When I got back to Manila, I did an Internet search and found a website set up by the alumni (aenau.org.ph). There were testimonials for alumni from Boystown Luzon on testimonies-ibm0306, Friday.

There's also a website for the World Villages (www.worldvillages.org), well-organized for fund-raising. But there are still so many needs that could use local support. There's greenhouse is only one example.

I met Sarah Jane Bolos, Bolos' sister, who at the age demic diversity, if any of these graduates had entered the University of the Philippines. She said that last year, there was one student who passed the entrance exam, but didn't push through, worried about the living expenses. I suspect that if there were sponsors who could commit to supporting students' college living expenses, more would apply to UP and other state universities. I suggested the possibility of scholarships in medicine (who knows, maybe anthropology as a pre-med option).

Then it struck me. Here I was with my reservations about a greenhouse approach and supporting UP too, in a green house. Yet, we've produced graduates who are not just in touch with the world, but have dared to want to change it. Greenhouses can make a difference.

A British view of Filipinos in 1837

EVERY SEMESTER, I REQUIRE MY STUDENTS to dig up the newspapers on the day they were born and write a short essay describing what the Philippines was like on their birthday. The exercise is designed to show that most parents remember nothing about their children, and that the fact that a child was born joins them. Newspapers often challenge parental memory and prove that parents are sometimes by very unreliable sources of historical information.

My parents and sisters are false babies (while my genuine contemporaries were in their forties), so their view of the world is different from mine. Many students notice that the Philippines has not changed much in the past two decades, the people who make news are still the same, the problems we face are the same.

So I was very disappointing, which is why I was delighted to read a photocopy of a small pamphlet, "Summary of Wine and Company in the Philippines 1836-1926," containing the observations John Wise compiled for the information of his father in 1837. Her Britannic Majesty's ambassador to Manila, Peter Richardson, wanted to find the wine trade in the islands, and as I found on reading it, I realized it was so politically incorrect that it was more amusing than interesting. The description of Filipinos and their character in 1836 is a useful reading today, if only to see how much we have improved in the last century and a half.

Wise's report is a photocopy of a small pamphlet, "Summary of Wine and Company in the Philippines 1836-1926," containing the observations John Wise compiled for the information of his father in 1837. Her Britannic Majesty's ambassador to Manila, Peter Richardson, wanted to find the wine trade in the islands, and as I found on reading it, I realized it was so politically incorrect that it was more amusing than interesting. The description of Filipinos and their character in 1836 is a useful reading today, if only to see how much we have improved in the last century and a half.

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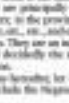
LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



Anthropologists, there are in the Philippines two distinct races of men, namely, the brown or yellow Malay race with dark, black hair who live on the plains, and a black race with woolly hair that resides in the mountain fastnesses. The latter are the aborigines and are in general of short stature and tolerably well formed, with small head and limbs, high cheek bones, narrow forehead, flat nose, mouth pretty large, full lips, teeth naturally white and well set but rendered dark and unattractive even black by constantly chewing betel, or betel nut, enveloped in a leaf plastered with quicklime. The skin is seldom stained by a betel, and the five struggling hairs which occasionally make their appearance are pulled out by the roots.

"The other class of natives are in effect the genes of low stature. Little is known about them, as hitherto they have resisted the attempts made by the Spaniards to subjugate them, neither do they live in many with their more civilized countrymen of the plains, who of course look upon them as their inferiors.

"There are a great number of natives in all parts of these islands. Their class is the same as the Indians. In Manila they are principally boatmen, shopkeepers and traders; in the provinces, agriculturists, boatmen, etc., etc., and some of them hold large properties. They are an industrious, peaceable class, and decidedly the most valuable part of the population.

"In referring to the Indians hereafter, let it be observed that it does not include the Negritos of the mountains.

"In bodily endurance they are peaceable, but not very industrious: food is so cheap that the labor of the season will furnish them with maintenance throughout the year. As manufacturers of the cloth of the country they are diligent and ingenious. As regards honesty, although the Malays are found mostly generally requiring payment in advance, not desiring allow labor to interfere with business or pleasure. As sailors, they are undertaking, though it is generally considered that it requires years of them to do the duty of one European. It never answers for them to have part of a mixed crew, for when their vengeance is awakened by real or imaginary grievances, they do not stop at murder, but when they are all Manila men, commanded by a captain and officers who understand their characters, there is little or no such danger to fear.

"In soldiers, they have had no experience, if we except some instances where there have been skirmishes with the mountaineers; it is said that they fought bravely when the English took Manila in 1762. I should however be disposed to place little reliance on their courage. As sailors, they are not to be compared with the Malays. They are made to do what is told them in all times without a murmur, as mountains, some of them display good taste. In the arts and sciences, no progress has been made, though we occasionally meet some who can paint.

"There are few who will not steal or cheat when they can do so with impunity; at the same time let it be observed that the shopkeepers frequently treat the provincial people. The majority of them are gamblers, gamest of chance and cock-fighting, especially the latter are their delight. They are very fond of what the money they have about them, whether they stake, is their own or other people's.

"Amongst themselves they do not appear to be quarrelsome, as we seldom hear of any encounters, whether public or otherwise, but are they not addicted to revenge, and when they think they can do so with impunity, at the same time let it be observed that the shopkeepers frequently treat the provincial people. The majority of them are gamblers, gamest of chance and cock-fighting, especially the latter are their delight. They are very fond of what the money they have about them, whether they stake, is their own or other people's.

"Amongst themselves they do not appear to be quarrelsome, as we seldom hear of any encounters, whether public or otherwise, but are they not addicted to revenge, and when they think they can do so with impunity, at the same time let it be observed that the founders are not celebrated for their honesty, by manners they are rather disagreeable and cringing.

Do we recognize ourselves in this historical mirror? If we do, then we must be liberated from our history.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Comprehensive audit of Philippine debts urged

LETTERS

WHEN IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE Philippine government has finally paid in full its loan for the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, the President then Debt Coalition wizard (but the country has still a bank) of "white elephant contamination" fame.

The case of the P600 million investment lost from Aquino's another classic example of an illegitimate debt that must not be honored. Signed by the Department of Finance and the Bank of Tokyo in 1997, the loan involved the importation of 23 medical waste incinerators for Department of Health-run hospitals across the country. There incinerators, called Riddicator, manufactured by Lockheed-a firm found bribed and supplied by the American firm HARD, eventually became useless following the implementation of the Clean Air Act of 1999.

The national government has been paying for this "white" debt since 2002 with a whopping $2 million or P110 million a year. Unfortunately, despite the non-return of the harmful project in 2003, Filipinos will still be paying the tender until 2014 because it did late on necessary appropriations for debt servicing.

The proposed national budget for 2008 has just been submitted to Congress for scrutiny and deliberation. We are calling on the legislative branch to exercise its so-called "power of the purse" to amend the allocations for this "white" loan—not only from the proposed 2008 budget but also from the national account.

We are also appealing to the Aquino government to cancel the loan so that the Filipino people can reject the entire debt service in the national government. If the Norwegian government has accepted last year its accountability for the 1986 odious debt, it is time to five countries—Canada, Japan, Peru, Jamaica and Taiwan—for a failed development intervention (Norwegian Ship Export Campaign or NORAD 1975-1980) and cancelled these countries' remaining debts without conditions. How is it not for us to ask that the American government—the biggest creditor in the country—do the same?

—ROBERT L. ARCHBALD,
media liaison,
Freedom from Debt Coalition,
52 Rizalvista St.,
Barangay Pinyahan,
Diliman, Quezon City 1100

What's GMA's environmental agenda?

SO, THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS OF THE present generation, are disappointed that we did not leave a comprehensive environmental rehabilitation plan from President Macapagal-Arroyo during her State of the Nation Address.

Even before we were born, environmental destruction was institutionalized in the country via the Timber License Agreement (TLAs) that were endorsed by our government to only 100,000 hectares in all (other mining companies, like Marcopper, were allowed to pollute and destroy entire fishing zones. (Marcopper, it may be recalled, is the same company responsible for the recent mining disaster on the island of Marinduque, which happened in 1996.)

With the Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Management Act have been passed, they have yet to be totally enforced. To this day, open dumps exist in Manila, Navotas, Quezon City and in many parts of the country, while the government continues to approve the construction of coal-fired power plants.

Growing up, our generation came to know that the Philippines is one of the most beautiful and the most biologically diverse countries in the world. But our generation is also witness to the worst environmental tragedies (Ormoc flood, Payatas dump-watch, the Quezon province landfill-ex, Guimaras Oil Spill, Baguio mining disasters). And our generation will witness that will come after us will be witness to global climate change.

The silence of the President on the life-and-death issues of environment was very revealing. And shortly after the State, she placed under her direct supervision the issuance of mining agreements—an historic development for the benefit of foreign companies, notwithstanding that mined areas have yet to be rehabilitated. (At but also made the ratification of the Aquia Philippines Executive Protocol Agreement—which will legalize the importation of toxic wastes via legislative process.

Also, recently, Mr. in new appointed for new Manila Mayor Lito Atienza—not to conserve nature, but despite his questionable record in environmental matters. Months back, instead of prosecuting Lafayette for its irresponsible mining operations in Negros Bago Island, the government allowed it to resume production operations.

In her State, the President said the government would spend billions for infrastructure and facilities to attract investments. But when will all these serve for us in our country and the people (from have already been devastated?

We believe that an important aspect of nation-building is nurturing, rehabilitating and sustaining the environment and natural resources. If our focus of becoming a developed country by the year 2010 is to be met, then the first order of the day is to ensure that future generations will benefit from sufficient resources, clean air and resources and economy.

—JOHN ROSE and MA. LA ARELLA,
League of Youth for the Environment (LYE),
www.geocities.com/lyfmail/

Stop E-World from victimizing more Filipinos

THE HEAD COMPRA WORDS ARTICLE TITLES: "Buy-scams' visit the illegally motorist" (Inquirer, 8/12/07).

I am one of the thousands of Filipinos who have been stalled by E-World Recorders. I am one of those who shelled out a month money to E-World just to comply with the requirements which, I was told, "Renewals paid ASAP. If you want your papers to be processed." I was told that those who were going to renew after sellout and passing the questionable American Board for Certification in Teacher Excellence. I am one of those whom Norman Gibbs looked straight in the eye—without him trotting a single blood symbols—and issued that E-World is one legal agency that could provide me an employer. I am one of those whom his wish—all Filipinos, sadly!—stalled of hard-earned savings.

Sad, really because they looked you in the eye as if they would cut throat you. My mom and I wanted to ask for help from the media and from the proper authorities to have this questionable trade stopped immediately. So many teachers and domestic helpers have suffered already.

Gibbs and his cohorts should be stopped before they can deprive more families of their savings and destroy more lives.

—JOHANNA CARRILLO HINGADA,
johanna_mhg@mail.yahoo.com

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JURISTS BAR REVIEW CENTER

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PRE-WEEK LECTURES 2007

Date	Time	Subject	Lecturer
27 Aug (Mon)	8:00 -12:00 n.n.	How to Answer the Bar	Prof. Marcial Figueroa
27 Aug (Mon)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Political Law	Prof. Rene Gonzaga
28 Aug (Tue)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Constitutional Law	Prof. Rene Gonzaga
29 Aug (Wed)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Admin/Special Laws	Prof. Rene Gonzaga
30 Aug (Thu)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Labor Standards	Prof. J. Oswaldo Lorenzo
31 Aug (Fri)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Labor Relations	Prof. J. Oswaldo Lorenzo
03 Sep (Mon)	8:00 -12:00 n.n.	How to Answer the Bar	Prof. Cefer Lubin
03 Sep (Mon)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Persons & Succession	Prof. Victor Pagunigan
04 Sep (Tue)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Property & Land Titles	Prof. Marcial Figueroa
05 Sep (Wed)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Obligations & Contracts	Atty. Joseph Jaime Flores
06 Sep (Wed)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Special Contracts	Prof. Efren Balagtas
08 Sep (Thu)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Tax I	Prof. Eric Rasonable
07 Sep (Fri)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Tax II	Prof. Eric Rasonable
10 Sep (Mon)	8:00 -12:00 n.n.	How to Answer the Bar	Prof. Cefer Lubin/Marcial Figueroa
10 Sep (Mon)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Legislation/Laws	Prof. Mario Oreal Villanueva-Castro
11 Sep (Tue)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Nego & Transportation	Prof. Cefer Lubin
12 Sep (Wed)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Insurance & Special Laws	Prof. Mario Oreal Villanueva-Castro
13 Sep (Thu)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Criminal Law I	Prof. Modesto Tomas, Jr.
14 Sep (Fri)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Criminal Law II & Special Laws	Prof. Modesto Tomas, Jr.
17 Sep (Mon)	8:00 -12:00 n.n.	How to Answer the Bar	Prof. Cefer Lubin
17 Sep (Mon)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Civil Procedure	Prof. Marcial Figueroa
18 Sep (Tue)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Cr. Pro/Criminal Procedure	Prof. Marcial Figueroa
19 Sep (Wed)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Civil/Special Proceedings	Prof. Marcial Figueroa
20 Sep (Thu)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Evidence	Prof. Marcial Figueroa
21 Sep (Fri)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Legal Ethics	Prof. Enik Salonga

SPECIAL LECTURES 2007

01 Sep (Sat)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Labor Law	Prof. Dyanna Marie Sabonsolin-Lim
01 Sep (Sat)	2:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Political Law	Prof. Edwin Sandoval
08 Sep (Sat)	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Taxation	Prof. Rudolfo Lumbera
08 Sep (Sat)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Civil Law	Profs. Cefer Lubin/Marcial Figueroa
15 Sep (Sat)	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Criminal Law	Justice Mario Lopez
15 Sep (Sat)	2:00-5:00 p.m.	Mercantile Law	Profs. Marcial Figueroa/Cefer Lubin
22 Sep (Sat)	2:00-5:00 p.m.	Legal Ethics	Prof. Enik Salonga
22 Sep (Sat)	9:00-12:00 p.m.	Remedial Law	Prof. Tranquil Salvador III

ENROLLMENT ON-GOING!

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'I heard GMA ask Garci about additional 1-M votes'

By Inquirer staff

Ms. Arroyo cleared the late Fernando Poe Jr. in the 2004 election with the help of Garcilano...ma accusation they both denied. Ms. Arroyo posted a 0.8 million margin of over 1 million votes.

Both Mednilla and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. declined immediate comment when asked for their reactions.

Dobbs broke into the news in June 2005 when he and his common-law wife sought refuge at the San Carlos Seminary at Makati City after it was reported that he had a copy of the recordings of Ms Arroyo's phone talk with Garcillano.

He left the seminary and turned himself in after the military took custody of his wife and his children. Lidio was freed of his duties—until yesterday when opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson presented his video testimony during a privilege speech in the Senate.

Project Lighthouse

Dobbs's testimony came more than five years after the scandal first broke and plunged the Arroyo presidency into its worst political crisis.

It provoked two unsuccessful impeachment attempts against Ms Arroyo in 2005 and 2006 and the resignations of 10 senior presidential advisers, plunged her approval ratings to a record low and sparked coup plots which she eventually quashed.

For a time, it did not seem like Ms Arroyo would survive the crisis. But she did.

Fear for family

Dobbs, a former agent of the Military Intelligence Group 23 of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP), revealed how the military formed a covert unit code-named "Project Lighthouse" to eavesdrop on both opposition and administration personalities in 2004 and how he was forced to keep silent on the issue.

"For two years and running, the country has been kept in the dark about the truth behind 'Hello Garci' because the men who knew the conversations were illegally tapped for political and other purposes could not speak out," Lacson said.

"His family was kidnapped in Kidapawan, North Cotabato, brought to Manila, detained in the basement of the official residence of the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines inside Camp Aguinaldo. Question: Or, to which he himself was brought later. Then was his silence guaranteed by the safety of his family?

Targets of wiretap

In the video, Dobbs, who was assigned to MIG 23 in March 1999, said Project Lighthouse was formed to monitor the phone conversations of several personalities, including five, former ignatius Roberto Secretary Horacio Morales, actor Ron Cortez, Magdalo officers such as actor Sen. Agapito "Dodong" Aquino Bulliam IV, Rafael Bolden, Bibi Maniwa-rangas, and Gerardo Gambala, Jess Gringo Honasan, and former Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor—and Garcillano.

Dobbs said the team was led by Col. Rhod Ramirez (who has left the body), Capt. Frederick Rebong (who later went to school abroad) and Capt. Lindon Fey Sarmiyo (who is still with the body).

Initially, Dobbs said he did not know that the men subscribed code name "Garci" to Garcillano, whom he came to know only after weeks of logging his phone calls.

Speaking about the conversation in which Ms Arroyo supposedly spoke about the "additional one million votes," Dobbs said.

This is why I didn't continue my report on the Garci tapes," Dobbs said in Filipino.

Held from June '05-April '06

"My family was kept in custody from June 2005 to April 2006. I was there from June 2005 until I was discharged in February 2007. I did not resign."

Asked why he waited two years to speak out, Dobbs said: "Because I was afraid that something was rampant in the May 14, 2007 election. Nothing changed since the May 2004 elections where there was cheating."

Lacson presented a four-step process on how the wiretapping was done, "like Big Brother listening to conversations between Libya Sheer and an electronic communications named 'Virgilio Garcillano.'" (See illustration on this page.)

"It only takes a service provider willing to cooperate and complete with whoever has knowledge in basic surveillance," said Lacson. He did not identify the service provider.

With visual aids, Lacson pointed out the sequence through the "cradle" wiretap process employed by Project Lighthouse:

First, the conversation from Garcillano's phone goes through the service provider's or phone company's main terminal. Second, the phone company splits the signal to relay the same call to the Bolde 3000 of Dobbs.

Third, Dobbs records the conversation on the unit's removable memory card, which is preprogrammed to record conversations.

Finally, the digital file is transferred to a personal computer.

Lacson said Dobbs's team had to transfer the recorded files constantly because they had no spare memory cards and recorded either to CD or audio cassette.

"The data [was] contained in the Philippine Center of 1,045 have not been subjected to any proper investigation much less by the Comelec (Commission on Elections) itself. They have not been prosecuted for crimes against the sovereign electorate," the senator added.

"They have remained in the woodwork of the Comelec and some of them have been promoted or reshuffled, the better to ensure that elections will remain random, dishonest and untruthful," Lacson said, citing Comelec officials Lorenzo Bedol, Lilian Radaza and Rey Guadalupe.

Lacson challenged Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, who has announced plans to reopen the Hello Garci case: "Mr. Commissioner, I am telling you now, we have Exhibit A in the person of Vidal Dobbs to challenge you to investigate the Garci tapes."

Lacson also challenged Ms Arroyo to invoke Executive Order No. 464 barring her executives from appearing in congressional hearings without her consent.

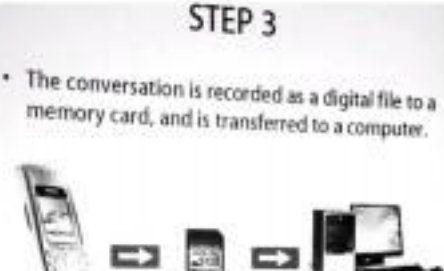
"I challenge Malacañang to allow the truth to prevail. The Filipino people deserve nothing less," said Lacson.

Aides from Dobbs who has consented to appear in a Senate investigation, Lacson said the committee would summon Mrs. Bishop Villegas, Lt. Paul Sumaoy, Chief of Project Lighthouse, Capt. Rebong (who was Dobbs's team head) and other members of Project Lighthouse.

Senate to probe

The Senate agreed to investigate Lacson's claims in a committee of the whole.

The Senate only conferees as a committee of the whole as can considered and as a matter of utmost national importance. The committee is chaired by the Senate President.



POWERPOINT PRESENTATION of Lacson explains the dirt on a four-step process on how wiretapping was done.

RP stocks soar but jitters remain

By Inquirer staff

P430.01 billion, leaving the Philippine stock market with a 6.2-percent gain for the year.

As value investors recovered on Monday after the US Federal Reserve cut its emergency discount rate by 50 basis points at the end of last week, investors in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) were bullish in buy because of the holiday.

Playing catch-up

"We are playing catch-up. Everyone rallied on Friday as well so that drew. We are just following their leads," said Jose Vitaso, head of research at AB Capital Securities Inc.

The broader all-share index ended up 150.94 points to 2,006.16. Out of 156 stocks traded, 101 advanced, eight declined, and 11 were unchanged.

Leading the advancers were Blue chips Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ayala Land Inc., Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) and Ayala Land jumped 9.7 percent to P14, and PLDT climbed 9.8 percent to P2,520. (See Philippine stock market table in Business, Page B10.

Those said the Federal Reserve's action provided a calming effect on the market and soothed investor fears of a credit crunch.

"The Fed's decision to cut its discount rate reversed the negative sentiment that had been prevailing in global markets," he said.

"That increases now a strong signal to investors that the Fed would act if necessary to stabilize the markets. It took out the element of irrational fear that has gripped investors in recent weeks," he added.

Flight to quality

Francisco Libres, president of PCCI Securities Brokers, noted that buying by foreign investors was primarily a flight-to-quality. "Even there, you see a flight to quality," he said.

A total of 4.6 billion shares worth P9.6 billion were traded on Tuesday but foreign buying was thin at P99 million—foreigners bought P5.19 billion but sold P5.09 billion worth of local shares.

Vitaso said he expected the market's drop due to open a selection by penny investors to take profit in coming days.

"The damage due to the big sell-offs in previous weeks is still there. There will be some selling on rallies and this will cap gains [going forward]," he said.

Ben Rodelas of Unicapital Securities said corporate news failed from the US subprime mortgage troubles were likely to linger, making markets volatile and prone to quick profit-taking on any upside.

High alert for signs of trouble

"We are not completely out of the woods. Investors will be wanting to see if key central banks will continue intervening if needed to bring stability to the market," he said.

Most Asian stock markets rallied for a second straight day on Tuesday as fears of a credit crisis dissipated, lifting global sentiment to generally overheated to needs. (See related story in Business, Page B6)

But several bourses lost ground as investors remained on high alert for fresh signs of trouble in credit markets due to problems in US subprime mortgages on high-risk borrowers.

European stock markets also struggled to maintain their recovery in early trade despite declining fears of a full-blown credit crunch. With reports from AFP and AFP

GMA on dropouts: Let them sweep streets

By Inquirer staff

she was told that peasants were starving before Fort Bend was put on the guillotine during the French Revolution.

In any event, Jules was ordered to be sophomoric terms, asked to resign—in front of unemployed masses.

Ms Arroyo's remarks highlighted the contradictions of an administration grappling with massive problems that have haunted the country's educational system for the last four decades.

Both Malacañang and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. declined immediate comment when asked for their reactions.

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Lacson also challenged Ms Arroyo to invoke Executive Order No. 464 barring her executives from appearing in congressional hearings without her consent.

"I challenge Malacañang to allow the truth to prevail. The Filipino people deserve nothing less," said Lacson.

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POWERPOINT PRESENTATION of Lacson explains the dirt on a four-step process on how wiretapping was done.

RP stocks soar but jitters remain

By Inquirer staff

P430.01 billion, leaving the Philippine stock market with a 6.2-percent gain for the year.

As value investors recovered on Monday after the US Federal Reserve cut its emergency discount rate by 50 basis points at the end of last week, investors in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) were bullish in buy because of the holiday.

Playing catch-up

"We are playing catch-up. Everyone rallied on Friday as well so that drew. We are just following their leads," said Jose Vitaso, head of research at AB Capital Securities Inc.

The broader all-share index ended up 150.94 points to 2,006.16. Out of 156 stocks traded, 101 advanced, eight declined, and 11 were unchanged.

Leading the advancers were Blue chips Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ayala Land Inc., Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) and Ayala Land jumped 9.7 percent to P14, and PLDT climbed 9.8 percent to P2,520. (See Philippine stock market table in Business, Page B10.

Those said the Federal Reserve's action provided a calming effect on the market and soothed investor fears of a credit crunch.

"The Fed's decision to cut its discount rate reversed the negative sentiment that had been prevailing in global markets," he said.

"That increases now a strong signal to investors that the Fed would act if necessary to stabilize the markets. It took out the element of irrational fear that has gripped investors in recent weeks," he added.

Flight to quality

Francisco Libres, president of PCCI Securities Brokers, noted that buying by foreign investors was primarily a flight-to-quality. "Even there, you see a flight to quality," he said.

A total of 4.6 billion shares worth P9.6 billion were traded on Tuesday but foreign buying was thin at P99 million—foreigners bought P5.19 billion but sold P5.09 billion worth of local shares.

Vitaso said he expected the market's drop due to open a selection by penny investors to take profit in coming days.

"The damage due to the big sell-offs in previous weeks is still there. There will be some selling on rallies and this will cap gains [going forward]," he said.

Ben Rodelas of Unicapital Securities said corporate news failed from the US subprime mortgage troubles were likely to linger, making markets volatile and prone to quick profit-taking on any upside.

High alert for signs of trouble

"We are not completely out of the woods. Investors will be wanting to see if key central banks will continue intervening if needed to bring stability to the market," he said.

Most Asian stock markets rallied for a second straight day on Tuesday as fears of a credit crunch dissipated, lifting global sentiment to generally overheated to needs. (See related story in Business, Page B6)

But several bourses lost ground as investors remained on high alert for fresh signs of trouble in credit markets due to problems in US subprime mortgages on high-risk borrowers.

European stock markets also struggled to maintain their recovery in early trade despite declining fears of a full-blown credit crunch. With reports from AFP and AFP

GMA on dropouts: Let them sweep streets

By Inquirer staff

she was told that peasants were starving before Fort Bend was put on the guillotine during the French Revolution.

In any event, Jules was ordered to be sophomoric terms, asked to resign—in front of unemployed masses.

Ms Arroyo's remarks highlighted the contradictions of an administration grappling with massive problems that have haunted the country's educational system for the last four decades.

Both Malacañang and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. declined immediate comment when asked for their reactions.

Dobbs broke into the news in June 2005 when he and his common-law wife sought refuge at the San Carlos Seminary at Makati City after it was reported that he had a copy of the recordings of Ms Arroyo's phone talk with Garcillano.

He left the seminary and turned himself in after the military took custody of his wife and his children. Lidio was freed of his duties—until yesterday when opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson presented his video testimony during a privilege speech in the Senate.

Project Lighthouse

Dobbs's testimony came more than five years after the scandal first broke and plunged the Arroyo presidency into its worst political crisis.

It provoked two unsuccessful impeachment attempts against Ms Arroyo in 2005 and 2006 and the resignations of 10 senior presidential advisers, plunged her approval ratings to a record low and sparked coup plots which she eventually quashed.

For a time, it did not seem like Ms Arroyo would survive the crisis. But she did.

Fear for family

Dobbs, a former agent of the Military Intelligence Group 23 of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP), revealed how the military formed a covert unit code-named "Project Lighthouse" to eavesdrop on both opposition and administration personalities in 2004 and how he was forced to keep silent on the issue.

"For two years and running, the country has been kept in the dark about the truth behind 'Hello Garci' because the men who knew the conversations were illegally tapped for political and other purposes could not speak out," Lacson said.

"His family was kidnapped in Kidapawan, North Cotabato, brought to Manila, detained in the basement of the official residence of the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines inside Camp Aguinaldo. Question: Or, to which he himself was brought later. Then was his silence guaranteed by the safety of his family?

Targets of wiretap

In the video, Dobbs, who was assigned to MIG 23 in March 1999, said Project Lighthouse was formed to monitor the phone conversations of several personalities, including five, former ignatius Roberto Secretary Horacio Morales, actor Ron Cortez, Magdalo officers such as actor Sen. Agapito "Dodong" Aquino Bulliam IV, Rafael Bolden, Bibi Maniwa-rangas, and Gerardo Gambala, Jess Gringo Honasan, and former Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor—and Garcillano.

Dobbs said the team was led by Col. Rhod Ramirez (who has left the body), Capt. Frederick Rebong (who later went to school abroad) and Capt. Lindon Fey Sarmiyo (who is still with the body).

Initially, Dobbs said he did not know that the men subscribed code name "Garci" to Garcillano, whom he came to know only after weeks of logging his phone calls.

Speaking about the conversation in which Ms Arroyo supposedly spoke about the "additional one million votes," Dobbs said.

This is why I didn't continue my report on the Garci tapes," Dobbs said in Filipino.

Held from June '05-April '06

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TALENTS of the documentary "Our Igorot Fathers, the Heroes" in their 66th Infantry and Japanese Imperial Army uniforms.

Igorot documentary captures 'battle among the clouds'

By Maurice Malanes
Jr Trinidad, Benguet

THEY OFTEN TELL THEIR trials and triumphs during World War II over cups of native coffee or tapuy (rice wine) at social gatherings. But old Igorot soldiers of World War II are not just fading away; they are also dying and their heirs worry that nobody is left to tell their stories.

Fortunately for the veterans, some of their grandchildren, anxious that such part of Benguet's historic gets told, in forgotten altogether, have thought of documenting in film their grandfathers' stories of valor, courage and sacrifice.

The premiere showing of the first documentary about Igorot war veterans was the highlight of a series of activities honoring the Igorot's bid for World War II heroes on Aug. 15, the day the province was liberated from the Japanese Imperial Army 62 years ago.

Thanks to the initiatives of Researchfilms, a local research group, and the Outstanding Students of the Cordillera Administrative Region (Oscar) Alumni Community Inc., in August's bid for World War II heroes on Aug. 15, the day the province was liberated from the Japanese Imperial Army 62 years ago.

Many members and associates of Researchfilms and Oscar are either children or grandchildren of World War II veterans. Their connection to local history finally led them to undertake film projects to ensure their forebears' heroism even with a dwindling budget.

The 45-minute "Our Igorot Fathers, the Heroes: The Untold Story of the 66th Infantry Regiment, USAFFE" chronicles how, on months after the fall of Bataan in April 1942, Igorot soldiers returned to Benguet to help build the resistance movement until the Japanese finally surrendered in 1945.

The film seeks to tell more comprehensively what used to be vignettes of the whole story of the Igorot resistance against the Japanese Imperial Army in the last war.

Training ten B Company Benguet and officers of the Cordillera recruits for guerrilla election for the resistance movement after the fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942. For one, the rugged and forested terrain of the mountain region was ideal for guerrilla warfare.

The other reason, which the film also noted, is that Benguet and the other mountain provinces had well-established rice terraces and upland rice producing communities to support the guerrillas in hiding.

Battle trails

In making the documentary, "we had to follow and visit the trails of armed battles, which still have traces of bullets, as we interviewed surviving veterans and recounted encounters between the Japanese and Igorot guerrillas," says Jerry Lorenzo of Researchfilms.

The filmmakers visited actual battle sites in the towns of Sablan, Tuba, La Trinidad, Itogon, Kabayan, Baguio, Mankayan and Kapangan.

"In the process, we were able to collect bombs and ammunition shells and other war guns, which we plan to put in a museum," says Lorenzo.

To recount the battles, the filmmakers had to employ 31 volunteer talents from Benguet and Mt. Province, who underwent a weeklong military training under the La Trinidad police and a consultant from the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The 66th Infantry

Given the filmmakers' meager budget, which they solicited from the Benguet provincial government and other donors, the documentary may not have the perfect semblance of war battles shown in well-funded movies.

But the documentary sufficiently shows how the 66th Infantry Regiment of the US AFFE (United States Armed Forces in the Philippines-Northern Luzon) liberated Baguio City and Benguet.

Composed mainly of soldiers from Benguet and Mt. Province, the 66th Infantry had to face a well-manned, well-armed enemy.

When the USAFFE, set to 9 Day on Jan. 4, 1945, the Japanese had already established strategic defense lines in Benguet, which they practically had constructed since after the war broke in 1941.

The Japanese had controlled Kagaldran and Nueva roads, the Mountain Trail (now Halsema Highway), and the gold and copper-rich Legaspi area.

But there was no stopping the 66th Infantry, which was attached to the 121-66th Army Division. The Igorot soldiers launched their attacks from the Japanese's front-to-back defense of the city—until approach Baguio City through Bagiuhan and Session roads.

Simultaneous assaults

The infantry's simultaneous assaults against the Japanese in three cave main fronts finally liberated Baguio on April 10 and Tuba on April 26. All those led to more assaults that finally liberated Baguio City on April 27 and La Trinidad on May 3.

In June 1945, the USAFFE-NL further set ashored in the 66th Infantry to reinforce the 121st and 66th Infantry in a battle with the Japanese at Ilocano Pass, Ilocos Sur.

The 66th Infantry was again assigned for combat operations in the Tagudin to Cervantes Highway at the right flank of Ilocano Pass.

On June 14, after more than five months of armed clashes at and around Ilocano Pass, where almost all soldiers of the 121st Infantry were killed, the "bloody and decisive battle among the clouds" (as a war chronicle described it) was finally won, "avenging upon Yamashita's treacherous deed."

After the battles at Ilocano Pass, all units of the USAFFE-NL converged their assaults into Mt. Province (at that time Mt. Province and Benguet, what is now the provinces of the Cordillera).

For its part, the 66th Infantry tested its mettle in the villages of Camilla and Lepanto in Bontoc up to Abatan and Asin Valley in Bagiuio town. Here the 66th Infantry, after launching its assault on June 17, 1945, faced the regular and battle-tested 19th Division, also called the Tora Division, of the Japanese army numbering about 2,000 troops.

After 27 days of fierce fighting, Lepanto in Abatan was finally liberated on July 10, eliminating what the Nips (sites) was "one of the most fortified enemy positions in Northern Luzon, and the whole Central Pacific Area."

From Lepanto and Mankayan, the 66th Infantry pursued the enemy to Abatan in Bagiuio, securing the area on July 27.

While the 66th Infantry was pursuing the remaining Japanese at Asin Valley on Aug. 15, Emperor Hirohito of Japan went on radio to announce his unconditional surrender to lay down their arms.

With this, USAFFE, commanding officer, Lt.Gen. Russell W. Volckmann, issued a cessation order. Japan surrendered, and after five years of conflict Benguet was finally liberated on Aug. 15, 1945.

The documentary has helped remind Benguet's officials to celebrate for the first time the province's liberation anniversary.

"Benguet's celebration of its Liberation Day serves as a reminder of the gallantry and sacrifices of our own local heroes," says a flyer of Researchfilms and Oscar. "The trails [the veterans] will reflect the Igorot [character] bravery, love for family, and love for freedom."

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Across the NATION

Gov't postpones talks with MILF

PEACE TALKS BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND THE country's biggest Muslim separatist group have been postponed until next month, the government's chief negotiator said on Tuesday.

Rodolfo Garcia, retired general, said a military offensive in Basilan and Sulu against Islamic militants was not the reason for the postponement of negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which had been scheduled to begin on Wednesday in Malaysia.

"I did request for the postponement of talks to a new date next month so I would have more time to refine our position," Garcia told Reuters, adding the government had no intention of interrupting the negotiations.

"I have to admit there were some wanted areas that have to be resolved within the government side. I want a more solid and reserve position before I would sit down and unveil our package on the table. I needed more time to fine tune our positions."

Garcia declined to comment on reports that there were conflicting views on the peace process within the Cabinet of Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, saying it was normal to have debate among members of the Cabinet on policies and issues.

"I don't want to face the other side on the table without any mandate from my principal. It was useless to meet with nothing substantial to discuss with the MILF," he said.

Garcia said the talks, which were expected to focus on an autonomy package for the whole, would be held before the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan on Sept. 13.

The MILF said it was informed of the postponement very late.

"We were already at the Manila airport and ready to fly to Malaysia when we were told the talks were called off by the government panel," Mohagher Iqbal, the chief negotiator of the MILF told Reuters.

The MILF and the government were last reaching an to offer to grant Muslims the right of self-determination, according three members of Arroyo's Cabinet opposed to the resumption of talks of causing the reconciliation of the meeting in Malaysia.

It was the second time the government postponed the meeting this year, the first being in May.

"Our panel members are already on their way to Kuala Lumpur when the government informed us of the cancellation," Jun Mumtaz, head of the MILF secretariat, said in a statement.

The talks would have centered on the extension of the life of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) and the issue of territory for the future Bangsamoro government.

The panels were also expected to discuss the entry of Canada and other countries to the Malaysian led IMT.

Abhoud Syed Mansour Lingga, head of the Bangsamoro Assembly, said the postponement of the talks compelled peace advocates.

"It came at a time when there is a need to iron out thorny issues and the Mindanao situation," Linggu, ako-director of the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies, told the foundation.

Linggu said he fears that the continued postponement of the talks could lead to the total collapse of the peace process. Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao and Reuters

PILFERED items, like transmission lines of the Albay Electric Cooperative, are said to be brought to smelting facilities in Metro Manila or China. NOEL PABALATE

Pilfered electric lines in Albay end up in Manila, China, cops say

LEGAZPI CITY—PILFERED transmission lines in the province were being brought to establishments in Metro Manila, that manufacture steel and iron products, while some were being exported to China, reports received by police in Albay revealed.

The series of pilferages of transmission lines from October 2006 to July this year triggered power interruptions in the province, which caused government to lose around P99 million in revenue and P50 million worth of pilfered and damaged electrical condenser steel.

Albay police director Senior Supt. Heriold Obaldo said establishing police strategies to stop pilferage, they have also doubled enforcement regarding the operations of junk shops, where pilfered items are sold.

One of the provisions in the draft ordinance, which will be submitted to local government units, aims to require junk shop owners and their employees to undergo training on what items are salable and what are entirely not.

The ordinance will also grant barangay captains power to inspect junk shops.

Obaldo said there should be a national law recognizing theft of telephone and electric wires as economic sabotage and increasing penalties.

Napoleon Santiago, head of Customer Source Network of Bayan Telecommunications Inc. in Legazpi, said his company incurred a loss of P57 million from November 2006 to May this year from pilferage.

"It took up almost 900 million to restore pilfered lines and those damaged by the typhoons last year," he added.

Obaldo said while an awareness campaign has been launched on pilferage, long-term plans should also be made to give people jobs.

He said poverty still remains the main cause of pilferage in Bicol, which is one of the poorest regions in the country.

There were a total of 21 pilferage cases in Albay from October 2006 to July this year. Legazpi City had the most cases, that occurred in January to seven cases.

This month, the Albay police learned latest any pilferage case. Obaldo said this was a good sign.

He said police have been keeping a close watch on cargo trucks that carry pilfered wires.

Police, he said, have also identified three suspected pilferage gangs and have arrested 10 suspects. Recovered telephone copper wires worth around P1.1 million, 711 kg of aluminum conductor wires, and parts of power transformers in their operations from January to July.

Albay police records showed that in Tiwi town there were 9,600 meters of wires pilfered; Malilipot town, 6,140 meters; and in Ligao City, 1,000 meters from October 2006 to July.

The stripping of the Naga-Tiwi line last May 30, June 10, and June 20 were caused by pilferage. Ephraim Agudilla, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Brokers pushing gov't probe of Baguio Koreans

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—REAL ESTATE brokers in the city are pushing the government investigation of Koreans who have been buying up lots here because Korean speculators have allegedly driven up Baguio listed prices in the last two years.

Members of the Chamber of Realtors and Builders' Association (Cred) have also informed the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) in an Aug. 17 dialogue about the unexplained growth of condominium buildings that are being marketed to South Koreans, said Sen Sima, a Cred member.

There is clear evidence these pieces of properties are owned by Koreans themselves, Sima said.

"They have been advertising Baguio over there (South Korea)," he said.

Koreans, however, have been seen the local real estate industry's "true major client three days" because the city's traditional clients from Metro Manila have already lost interest, a broker said on Sunday.

"(Metro) Manila (clients) used to come and buy Baguio land. But who wants to drive six hours today only to find squatters and pollution in the city? Koreans are actually the new market for (Baguio) lands, and we welcome them but they just do not follow our rules," said one broker, who asked not to be identified for fear it would jeopardize ongoing transactions with them.

The Bureau of Immigration has recommended filing charges against three Baguio-based Koreans for owning properties in violation of a constitutional provision that restricts foreign ownership of properties or businesses in the Philippines to only 40 percent.

"Our (Cred's) only the tip of the iceberg," the Cred's source said.

NEWS

Tears fill Marine gym again

By Christine O. Avendaño and Tarra Quismundo

FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS MONTH, the gymnasium of Philippine Marines headquarters in Fort Bonifacio was filled with mourners and the loved ones of 13 of the 15 Marines killed during a military raid of an Abu Sayyaf camp southwest last weekend.

Only weeks ago, other mourners had crowded the gym in a make-do three-in-one—14 bronze, 10 of which had been beheaded—who were killed in an ambush by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Abu Sayyaf group, which sparked the current military operations against the MILF.

The scent of the bamboo, it was the first time they glimpsed the remains of the soldiers, following the arrival of the bodies from Zamboanga City Monday night.

Wife's wife Portia Palmares couldn't help but cry as muzzle when the one the Islamic nephew, Cpl. Ursulo Torres Jr., lying in his white coffin.

"Nay, bad had, ay, batang ito. Bata pa ito, mahaggage. Ole man e very good boy, that's why I cannot accept this," Palmares told reporters in her brother, Torres' father, tried to console her.

The older Torres said his sister was crying so much because she had missed Torres, the fifth of his six children from his late wife.

At the end of the rites of soldiers at the gym.

TMRS 44

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester C. Dipasupil

DID YOU KNOW

THE NATIONAL Statistics Office, originally called the Bureau of the Census and Statistics, was created by Commonwealth Act No. 591 on Aug. 19, 1940. The BCS was renamed the National Census and Statistics Office in 1974, and was placed under the administrative supervision of the National Economic and Development Authority. The statistical agency, which undertakes censuses, got its current name in 1987. It was placed under the Office of the President, but was later placed again under Neda. The NSO headquarters is in Pila Sitna, Manila.

Cyril L. Bautista, Inquirer Research

FORMER basketball player Paul "Bong" Alvarez (center) tells police on the scene of the story after ABS-CBN television reporter Gretchen Malalad (right) and taxi driver Wilfredo Cabalit (left) accused him of attacking them in separate incidents in Mandaluyong City yesterday. RAFFY LERMA

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Reporter, cabbie file assault raps vs ex-cager

Cops say Alvarez also resisted arrest

By Kristine L. Alave

FORMER BASKETBALL PLAYER PAUL "BONG" Alvarez found himself in the middle of a different ball game after he was slapped with charges of physical injuries by two people who accused him of attacking them in Mandaluyong City yesterday. Police said he also tried to resist arrest.

One of his victims, however, ABS-CBN television reporter Gretchen Malalad, managed to punch Alvarez in the face after he allegedly elbowed her and grabbed her by the hair when she tried to interview him.

Malalad, who holds a black belt in karate, had won gold medals in the Southeast Asian Games.

Alvarez's other victim, Wilfredo Cabalit, 58, a taxi driver, was not as fortunate.

He was sporting a huge lump between the eyes aside from bruises and cuts on his face when he went to the police.

The charges against Alvarez were filed in the Mandaluyong City Prosecutor's Office.

Senior Inspector Pilo Edmundo Subala said the former Philippine Basketball Association player flagged down Cabalit's taxi at the Rembrandt Hotel in Quezon City at about 2 a.m.

Cabalit said Alvarez, who smelled of liquor, angrily accused him to trying to jack up his taxi fare by taking Boni Avenue, the longer route, instead of Shaw Boulevard, on his way to Quiapo, Manila.

When the taxi driver said he was only trying to avoid getting caught in traffic, Alvarez turned on him and kicked him, according to the police report.

As Cabalit got out of his cab to avoid the suspect's blows, Alvarez ran after him, hitting him in the face and chest, at times with a boxing-like motion, the victim said.

Witnesses took both to the police station where Malalad tried to interview Alvarez who refused.

When she approached to handle, Alvarez elbowed her on the face and pulled her hair, prompting her to punch his face.

Alvarez and his lawyer, Godfrey Camelgan, refused to talk to the media about the incident.

Alvarez later posted a bail bond of P4,500 and was released from police custody at 4 p.m.

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Rains prevent opening of Quezon underpass as scheduled this month

By Margaux C. Orlo

THE INCESSANT RAINS CAUSED by three consecutive typhoons over the past weeks have hindered the scheduled opening of the pedestrian underpass linking the Quezon City Hall to the Quezon Memorial Circle.

City Engineer Aurelio Cabangbang earlier announced that the underpass would be opened before Aug. 15.

"We are just waiting for Mayor (Feliciano) Sonny Belmonte to set the date for the inauguration and the opening of the pedestrian underpass which could be anytime soon," he told the Inquirer.

"We are just putting the finishing touches to the project," Cabangbang added. The P87 million project is composed of two phases. The first called for the completion of the tunnel while the second phase involved the construction of the entrances and exit areas.

"Joggers, senior citizens and families who wish to spend the day at the Circle can finally pass safely through the underpass," the city official said in an earlier interview.

Cabangbang added that while the underpass would not be air-conditioned, it would have a high ceiling to allow cool air to flow through the structure.

There would also be an elevator for the use of the disabled, he added.

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Prosecution, defense junk plea bargain in Leviste aide killing

By DJ Yap

BOTH THE PROSECUTION AND THE DEFENSE in the case involving former Batangas Gov. Jose Antonio Leviste said his state witness enjoyed all possibility of a plea bargain in the case known to pre-trial since last month.

"A plea bargain would mean our client pleading guilty to a lesser charge. But our position has always been that our client is innocent," Henry Lopeña, one of Leviste's lawyers, said yesterday.

Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco was also not in favor of a plea bargain, although his position was the opposite. "The prosecution is still not open to plea bargain because we are confident that we can prove his guilty of murder," he said.

Earlier, Judge Elmo Alameda of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 junked Velasco's motion asking him to reconsider his decision to grant bail to Leviste, who stands accused of killing his longtime aide Rolando de los Altos on Jan. 12.

In a two-page order, Alameda said the prosecution had failed to show sufficient evidence that Leviste's guilt was strong "to therefore seriously right to bail." But he clarified that the case against Leviste was still strong, and not homicide, as the latter's lawyers had argued.

"To put the record in its proper perspective, the court did not make a categorical statement that the case at hand should be treated as a simple homicide and not murder," Alameda said.

"Members in the quasi-court order did the court rule that the crime committed by the accused on the basis of the evidence presented by the prosecution during the bail hearing is that of homicide and not murder," he added.

Alameda set the pre-trial conference on Sept. 26 "to consider the possibility of plea bargaining, to assist the parties in reaching a settlement of the civil aspect of the case."

But in separate interviews, Lopeña and Manuel Gaguncio, Leviste's other counsel, said a plea bargain was unnecessary because the prosecution did not have sufficient evidence to show that Leviste killed De los Altos.

Velasco, on the other hand, said the prosecution was "ready" for trial and had no intention of entering into a plea bargain at all. He added that he had not received a copy of Alameda's order denying his motion for reconsideration, which questioned the granting of bail to Leviste.

In his motion, Velasco had said the testimonies of members of the prosecution team, including Leviste's own private prosecutor in the late Alan Aliling. On May 22, Alameda granted Leviste's petition to post bail, noting the prosecution had failed to present sufficient evidence that Leviste's guilt was strong. He was released after posting a P500,000 bail bond.

Truck firm official robbed of payroll money

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FOUR MOTORCYCLE-RIDING MEN robbed a trucking company official of P150,000 in payroll money in Quezon City yesterday afternoon.

Supt. Jose Garcia, of Quezon City Police District Station 6, identified the victim as Jason Bartolome, executive vice president of the Norwest Trucking Co.

The incident happened at 1:04 p.m. yesterday on Gold Industries, Batasan-Hills Subdivision in Project 6.

Bartolome was aboard his white Toyota Hi-Lux and had just withdrawn money from a bank in Litex when he noticed that four men riding tandem on two motorcycles were following him.

According to the police, Bartolome stopped on the accelerator to elude the suspects, but the four men pulled out handguns and shot at his vehicle.

Bartolome's pickup was hit by several bullets, but he was unharmed.

The four men caught up with Bartolome on Calle Industria.

There, the suspects surrounded the victim's vehicle.

The suspects immediately grabbed the P150,000 in cash Bartolome had just withdrawn from the bank and fled in the direction of Pasig City.

Probe of Tullahan Bridge rehabilitation urged

By Mercy C. Cervajal

TWO LAWMAKERS YESTERDAY said they would file a resolution to investigate alleged anomalies in the ongoing rehabilitation of the Tullahan Bridge in Valenzuela City.

Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla and Valenzuela City Rep. Sherwin Gatchalian said the Commission on Audit (COA) should also investigate the matter because the project is behind schedule.

Both Sen. Revilla and Gatchalian said they would file separate resolutions in Congress calling for the investigation of Josefino Pagsa, chief of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Capital Region and R.C. Gomez Construction Co., the project contractor.

"There would be consistency between government officials and the construction company for these anomalies to take place," Revilla told reporters.

Gatchalian added that the bridge contractor had been previously blacklisted by the city government reportedly in connection with a project that was found to be overpriced.

"This is a disaster waiting to happen and the people of Valenzuela City have suffered enough due to the delays in the completion of the project," he said.

Revilla, who chairs the Senate public works committee, claimed the contractor changed the original design and specifications of the project without the approval of the DPWH, the project's lead agency.

He added that the project's original bidding cost of P60.3.9 million was even raised to P63 million despite the delay in construction work.

The project was originally set to be completed on May 31.

Metro Briefs

Lim: Find truck owner

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim asked the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to help identify the owner of the dump truck that hit and killed a 10-year-old girl in Tondo on Monday.

Lim said the LTO could easily identify the owner of the truck through the vehicle's plate number.

The mayor also ordered the Manila Police District (MPD) to arrest the truck driver, identified only as Jerry.

Lim said he will personally visit the family of the victim, Jessa Mae Salinas, to express his condolences.

Salinas was killed when she was run over by the truck while she was crossing Quezon Boulevard in front of the Quiapo Church.

Gotcha!

THE LONG arm of the law finally caught up with a wanted man in Taguig City on Sunday after a tip from a barangay official led to his arrest, Journal Courier, which was citing an unnamed source, reported.

Jeffrey Antonio Bolo, 32, was apprehended by police at around 5 p.m. on Sunday in Barangay Tuktukan.

The suspect, who had been hiding for two years, was spotted in Barangay Ususan by officials of the barangay, which informed the authorities.

Taguig police chief Supt. Jose Mario Espino Jr. said Bolo did not put up any resistance when he was arrested.

Bolo is facing charges of murder and robbery.

Espino said Bolo was also a suspect in the killing of a certain Jun Jun Ramos in Barangay Tuktukan.

The suspect, who had been hiding for two years, was spotted in Barangay Ususan by officials of the barangay, which informed the authorities. Taguig police chief Supt. Jose Mario Espino Jr. said Bolo did not put up any resistance when he was arrested.

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL MARITIME POLYTECHNIC (NAMA)
[illegible]

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Maritime Polytechnic (NAMA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby invites all interested Licensed Security Agencies Providing Basic Security (LSPBS) registered security providers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of the following:

Name of Location	: Procurement of Security Services for NAP
Location	: Mandaluyong, Metropolitan Area
Brief Description	: To provide security services to NAP Complex Catalina with 20 Normal Security Guards
Approved Budget for the Contract	: Two Million Four Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 2,400,000.00)
Contract Duration	: One (1) year

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with the value of the largest contract at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget of the Invitation project for bidding and have duly processed and registered licenses issued or under processed available by prospective bidders. The Bid Documents shall be sold to prospective bidders starting [illegible] to [illegible]. The Eligibility Check commences as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall not be discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All participants relative to Eligibility Submission and Screening, Bid Security, Preliminary Examination of Bids, Conference/Meeting, Opening of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations of 2003.

The schedule of activities is listed as follows:

	ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE/TIME/VENUE
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	[illegible]
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	[illegible]
3.	Submission of Eligibility Documents	[illegible]
4.	Opening of Bids	[illegible]

Bids documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) to the BAC Cashier.

Only the bids of eligible bidders shall be opened in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representatives, as evidenced by the Special Power of Attorney and such attendance. The Opening of Bids shall be done right after the checking of the eligibility requirements. Only bids from prospective bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened.

The National Maritime Polytechnic (NAMA) reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any minor defect therein, to cancel the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s), and to accept only the offer that is most advantageous to the government.

The NAMA assumes no responsibility whatsoever on unsuccessful bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

[illegible]
Acting Chairman, BAC-SEC

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following employers/petitioners have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits.

Name and address of Employer/Petitioner	Name of Foreign National	Position
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

The Regional Director
[illegible]

Egypt finds oldest human footprint

CAIRO—EGYPTIAN ARchaeologists have found what they said could be the oldest human footprint in history in the country's western desert, the state news agency said on Monday.

"This could go back about one million years," said Zahi Hawass, the secretary-general of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities. "It could be the most important discovery in Egypt," he told Reuters.

Archaeologists found the footprint, imprinted on mud and then hardened into rock, while exploring a prehistoric site in Siwa, a desert oasis.

Scientists are using various methods to date the find, the rock to determine its exact age, Hawass said.

Khaled Saad, the director of prehistory at the council, said the footprint was "imprinted" on the rock when the footprint was found, it could date back even further than the interested 3 million year old fossil Lucy, the partial skeleton of its type ever, found in Ethiopia in 1974. Reuters

Rescuers give up hope of finding more survivors from Peru quake

HUACO—PERU TURNED TO clearing and reconstruction on Monday after rescue workers said there was no hope of finding more survivors in the devastation from the magnitude-8 earthquake that killed more than 500 people last week.

Clearing the streets and rebuilding are now the top priorities, President Alan Garcia said on Monday in Lima, where he returned after three days in the disaster zone. A government agency will oversee reconstruction of cities destroyed along Peru's southern coast.

"I estimate that in 15 days we will have cleared away the remains of Pisco but also the cobbles from the line where the houses were," he said, adding that families could then decide whether to put up tents or begin immediate construction of new homes.

Garcia said plans include providing small new cashrooms homes to people who lost their homes. They would be made with concrete blocks and steel rods, which can withstand earthquakes former than considered adobe.

He said survivors might receive financial assistance to build the homes or construction materials because of housing failures.

Wednesday's quake killed at least 540 people, injured 1,500 and leveled adobe buildings all over the region. More than 85 percent of homes in Pisco, a bustling port 200 kilometers southeast of Lima, collapsed. Rescuers said 30,000 in nearby Chincha. Another 6,053 houses were badly damaged, it said.

"We've stopped the rescue work," said Jorge Vela, a Dutchfighter who led the operation in field survivors at the San Clemente church in Pisco. "We're now working to recover the bodies."

And Rafael Lora, who used an infrared camera to find survivors, said "there's no hope in finding anyone alive." He said the dust generated when the Ilasca adobe buildings crumbled would have choked anyone still stuck in the rubble.

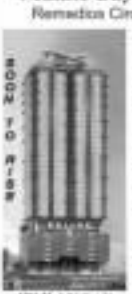
Friday was the last time a survivor was pulled from the quake's debris in Pisco.

The department official Guillermo Morales said 346 bodies had been removed from the nearby village of Tambillos was killed when a wall of his house fell on top of him during an after shock that the US Geological Survey measured as magnitude 5.6.

The tremors on Monday joined other international donors, ayuga had sent $250,000 to aid for the victims.

Garcia said aid was arriving, but some said they were still waiting for help. AP

Malate Bayview Mansion
Remedios Circle, Malate Manila



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WORLDBRIEFS

Iraqi governor killed

BAGHDAD—An Iraqi provincial governor was blown up by a roadside bomb on Monday in what appeared to be an escalation of a power struggle between rival Shiite factions that threatens to destabilize the oil-producing south. Mohammed Abdul-Hassan, governor of Muthanna province, was on his way from his home in the city of Samawa to Samawa, the provincial capital, when his convoy of nine cars was hit by a powerful roadside bomb, provincial officials said. Five body guard was also killed and two others wounded. Reuters

NZ probes Chinese clothes

WELLINGTON—The New Zealand government said on Tuesday it was investigating the safety of imported clothing from China and other countries following concerns that it contained dangerous levels of chemicals. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs said the investigation had been launched after a local television program found wooden and cotton fabrics imported from China contained levels of formaldehyde up to 900 times the safety limit set by the World Health Organization. Formaldehyde, used in making clothing manufacturers to prevent mildew, can cause skin irritations, respiratory problems and some cancer if exposed to high levels of the chemical. Reuters

183 detainees freed

BAGHDAD—At least 100 detainees held without charge in US- run prisons in Iraq have been freed over the past few weeks, after an Iraqi committee found them innocent, a senior Iraqi official told AFP on Monday. The detainees, some of them foreign Arab nationals, were released after a review undertaken by the Committee to Review Detainees in Multinational Forces' Prisons, a panel set up by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in May. "We have released 183 detainees who were held in the prisons run by multinational forces in Iraq," said Rasem Rahim, advisor to Maliki and member of the committee. AFP

Floods kill 80

KOLKATA, INDIA—Fresh floods in eastern India and Bangladesh have killed another 80 people, including two men on a motorbike who were electrocuted when they hit a cable in a flooded street, officials said on Tuesday. Many victims drowned, died from diseases spread by dirty water or were killed by snakebites after the fresh rains in a region already exhausted by more than a month of flood chaos. More than 1,200 people in India and Bangladesh have been killed in the last few weeks of monsoon flooding, hundreds of thousands of people across the region remain marooned or homeless. Reuters

Utah miners feared dead

ELSINORE, UTAH—The families of six Utah miners trapped underground two weeks ago have been warned their loved ones are most likely dead and may never be found, officials said on Monday. Robert Murray, the owner of the Sanpete Mine in Emerald Canyon, told reporters he had delivered the grim news to the families of the miners after rescue efforts remained halted following the deaths of three workers last week. "I was very forthright," Murray said. "Their reception with me was not good, but in some points the reality must sink in." The six miners are entombed in the mine, which is owned by privately-owned Bountiful Region some 200 kilometers southeast of Salt Lake City, on Aug. 6 following a torrential rains. AFP

Gamers' world reveals next possible epidemic

WASHINGTON—A PLAGUE started second the world by swindles, pets and outlaw teenagers may skew that experts have not taken everything into account when planning for an outbreak of disease, researchers said on Monday.

Luckily, the world involved is an Internet game.

The outbreak of "Corrupted Blood" initiative, that specialists trying to predict what the next pandemic will look like might make use of a real-world laboratory—the culture of online gamers.

"It really looked quite a bit like a real disease," Nina Jefferson of Winona University who worked on the report with her then-student Eric Lofgren, said in a telephone interview.

That includes stupid behavior, near-panic international travel and infection by pets.

The outbreak was an accidental consequence of a software challenge added to the "World of Warcraft" game in 2005. Jefferson and Lofgren report in the journal Latest Infectious Diseases.

The virulent, contagious disease was introduced by maker Blizzard Entertainment Inc. of Irvine, California, as an extra challenge for high-level players. But, just as a real virus might spread, it was accidentally carried out of its virtual containment area.

"Soon, the disease had spread to the densely populated capital cities of the fantasy world, causing high rates of mortality and, much more importantly, the social chaos that ensues from a large-scale outbreak of deadly disease," Jefferson and Lofgren wrote.

"When this accidental outbreak happened, players who played the game, started Jefferson, and they studied what they could. Reuters

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Provincial Government Center, Capitol Road, Mariveles, Bataan
Telefax: 847-2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BE ADJUDICATED
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT
(LOT 1 PHILECO FTI FOR THE BATAAN CITY ECONOMIC ZONE)

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) (Bagat City Government, Zone Authority) is inviting [illegible] for the Operation and Maintenance of the Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) Lot 1 of PEZA (LOT 1), the operation of an eligible [illegible] Bataan City.
2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 7160, also known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidding is open to all Filipino citizens/corporations, cooperatives, associations with a [illegible] and qualified to undertake the Operation and Maintenance of the Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) Lot 1 of PEZA (LOT 1).
3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bidding Documents at the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Provincial Government Center, Capitol Road, Mariveles, Bataan and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 22 August 2007 to 21 September 2007 during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address given below upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be delivered personally or by courier service to the prospective bidder upon payment of the fee.
5. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 3, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the [illegible] Conference Room, Administration Building, PEZA Compound, Bataan, Bataan City.
6. In addition to the requirements specified in the Bidding Documents, each prospective bidder shall submit a valid and current Certificate of Registration and Membership in the appropriate category issued by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and a valid and current Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city where his principal place of business is located.
7. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
8. The PEZA BAC's decision on responsive/non-responsive bids is final and conclusive.

Date: 17 August 2007
BAC Chairman

PSALM
Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corporation

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("PSALM") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee (the "Committee") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

The Hydroelectric Power Complex consisting of the 70 MW Ambuklao Hydroelectric Power Plant located at Bokod, Benguet and the 105 MW Binga Hydroelectric Power Plant located at Itogon, Benguet

(the "Asset"). The Asset is being privatized on an "as is where is" basis and will include a power supply allocation.

Interested parties must submit a Letter of Interest ("LOI") to the Committee which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received by the Committee at the PSALM Office with address at the 7th Floor Bankwise Building, 6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than **5:00 p.m. on 14 September 2007** (the "LOI Submission Deadline"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 70 of RA 9136, both in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand (U.S. Dollars (U.S.$ 1,000.00) (the "Participation Fee"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall either be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking, and Participation Fee must be received by the Committee on or before **5:00 p.m. on 18 September 2007** to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package which includes the Bidding Procedures shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from **5 September** until **19 September 2007** (the "Deadline") at the PSALM Office. Only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or consortium (as described below) will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

Interested parties that submit the LOI must be the party that will participate in the privatization process, submit a bid and enter into the pertinent agreements. Once an interested party submits the Confidentiality Agreement and Undertaking and pays the Participation Fee, such interested party may no longer be substituted in the privatization process, except through a consortium in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Bidding Procedures, among the requirements of which are (i) such interested party must own at least a majority of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote in such consortium; (ii) the consortium must be a juridical entity; and (iii) a letter requesting or (a) through consortium must be submitted to the Committee on or before the deadline set for the same in the Bidding Procedures.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence	: 27 August 2007 to 21 November 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	: 28 September 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office
Bid Submission Deadline	: 28 November, 12:00 noon at the PSALM Office

References in the dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Interested Parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to Two Million Five Hundred Thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S.$ 2,500,000.00) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit which must be accepted to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guaranty prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. The details of the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to, The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 7th Floor, Bankwise Building, 6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Florian A. Tanquinco at the PSALM Office or at telefax number (632) 893-6000 or e-mail address fatanquinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defect contained therein and accept the offer advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) **ANGELO T. REYES**
Chairman
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

The WORLD

Gilda Lorente B. Datoc

15 former Saddam aides go on trial

BAGHDAD—FIFTEEN FORMER AIDES OF EXECUTED Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, including the man known as "Chemical Ali," went on trial on Tuesday for crimes against humanity over their alleged role in the crushing of a 1991 Shiite rebellion.

Three of the accused, including Ali Hasan al-Majid, Saddam's cousin who is widely known as Chemical Ali, have already been sentenced to death in a previous trial for genocide and crimes against humanity.

Majid was among the first to enter the Iraqi High Tribunal, dressed in a cream colored robe with a white headscarf and supported by a cane.

When Judge Mohammed al-Orebi al-Khalifah asked him to introduce himself, he replied, "I am the fighter Ali Hassan al-Majid."

In his opening statement, the chief prosecutor accused Majid of cold-blooded extermination while Saddam's northern army was systematically killing tens of thousands of Shiites after they rose up in the wake of the first Gulf War.

"The Baathist forces were handling the cities and houses of people. Prisoners (captured) were killed," the prosecutor said.

"Majid used to come to detention centers, rip the hands of the detainees and then shoot them dead with his weapon. The dead were then later buried in mass graves. Many mass graves have been found since the 2003 war ended, and we will find many more if we keep searching." Prosecutors claim that up to 300,000 Shiites were killed when Saddam's Baathist put down the so-called "1991 Intifada (Uprising)," launched by deserting soldiers returning from their defeat in Kuwait and Iraqi citizens.

The massacres occurred around the holy Shiite cities of Najaf and Karbala and in the Hilla and Basra regions, after the United coalition decided to halt incursions into Iraqi territory.

"Saddam lost control of vast southern governorates. Saddam turned his face south," the prosecutor said, "his ordered tanks and infantry withdrawn from Kuwait to attack Basra and Najaf. The correct Saddam made only judgements. Majid was authorized to demolish anything and kill anyone who came in the way of the forces," Mishlet, a minority-to-be Muslim world, make up 60 percent of Iraq's population and were ruled for decades by Saddam's Sunni-led regime.

Since the March 2003 US-led invasion, Iraqi and international experts have exhumed dozens of mass graves of victims killed in the uprising, and their reports are expected to be the key evidence during the trial. AFP

THIS Aug. 20 satellite image given by NOAA shows Hurricane Dean churning in the Caribbean. Mexico evacuated resorts and oil rigs as the hurricane reached "potentially catastrophic" category five strength, unleashing monstrous winds and lashing rains near the Caribbean on Tuesday. AP

Monstrous hurricane slams into Mexico; oil rigs evacuated

CANCUN—HURRICANE DEAN on Tuesday slammed into the Caribbean coast of Mexico with "potentially catastrophic" category-five force, lashing the Yucatan Peninsula with monstrous winds and pounding rains.

Mexico evacuated tourists and oil rigs as the killer storm whipped up maximum sustained winds of 270 kilometers per hour with higher gusts, the Miami-based National Hurricane Center said.

The eye of the storm "made landfall on the east coast of the Yucatan Peninsula near Gran Manja, at Majahual around 3:30 a.m. ... about 65 km east-northeast of Chetumal, Mexico," it said.

Storm surge flooding and high tides of 4 to 6 meters above normal tide levels along with huge and dangerous battering waves were possible in the areas near and to the north of landfall.

Tourist resorts were abandoned and most residents had fled for safer ground by the time the outer bands of the storm began hosing down late Monday with heavy rains and high winds.

Authorities nonetheless banned a sigh of relief as forecasters said Cancun and other popular resorts along Mexico's Caribbean coast would likely be spared a direct hit.

Dean struck land before reaching on the border with Belize near Chetumal, 300 km away from the popular tourist resort of Cancun.

Authorities also deployed about 1,000 police officers to prevent the type of looting that followed the devastation wrought by Wilma, a category five hurricane that killed 19 people and caused millions of dollars in damage in Cancun two years ago. AFP

Anger mounts as hopes dim for 181 trapped China miners

QITAI—CHINESE AUTHORITIES on Tuesday tried to placate anguished relatives of 181 men trapped in flooded coal mines shafts with little hope of rescue efforts as government spread of official failures and ineptitude.

The miners have been trapped since Friday when a three dyke burst in torrential rain, sending water rushing into two mine shafts in the eastern province of Shanxi. As many as 181 miners were working and another nearby where three were mine.

Rescuers continued frantic efforts to pump the mines dry so the hoist hope that some of those trapped were still alive.

"For those family members of miners who rushed to the site, the local government is actively working to settle them to accommodation and has brought people on guard and cosmetic them by or due to safeguard order and mobility to the road entering area," said a notice on the central government's website (www.gov.cn).

Relatives of missing miners on Monday stormed the offices of Haoyuan Mining Co., which runs the bigger shaft, smashing windows and accusing managers of not telling families what was happening.

Even some of China's state-run newspapers cast aside restraint to criticize authorities.

"This seems to be a constant disaster, but where such natural disasters happen so often they must be just blamed on the gluttonous of nature," said the China Youth Daily.

As criticism mounted, government attempts to gain control over the story unravelled.

Deputies rounding to a nearby village to interview miners' family but were stopped by local security personnel who asked, "What are you doing? You will only aggravate social conflict."

Foreign reporters were tailed and local reporters began leaving the site, saying they had been called back by their editors, who in turn were acting on orders of the Central Propaganda Department. Reuters

Iran, IAEA resume talks to end nuclear dispute

TEHRAN—IRAN AND THE UN nuclear agency watchdog were into a second day of talks in Tehran on Tuesday aimed at helping to defuse a row over Tehran's disputed atomic activities which the West suspects is aimed at making bombs.

Negotiators were due to announce the outcome of discussions at a news conference later on Tuesday, Iran's semi-official Mehr News Agency said, without indicating when.

Iran agreed in June to draw up an action plan within 60 days to grant more access to its nuclear sites for inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Two previous rounds of talks were held in July and earlier this month. Iranian officials have described those discussions as positive and constructive.

Diplomats say Iran is drawing out two years cooperation to keep it ward off the threat of broader UN penalties following two sanctions resolutions since December, mainly targeting individuals and companies linked to the nuclear activities.

But the United States, leading international efforts to isolate Tehran, insists it must also suspend uranium enrichment as a precondition for broader talks on economic and trade incentives, something Iran has repeatedly refused to do.

Iranian officials say they expect the IAEA to highlight their cooperation in its next report due by early September on Iran's atomic program, which could determine whether it faces more UN sanctions.

Iranian chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani said on Monday Iran would retaliate if the US were to impose sanctions without declaring a specific response Iran has previously enforced cooperation with the IAEA when more sanctions were imposed.

Iran insists its atomic plans are aimed at making electricity so that it can export more of its oil and gas. Reuters

WHAT'S INSIDE
Pacquiao works out with wife watching/A24

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NBA Stars shoot for Olympic spot/A26

NCAA: Lion Aljamal's fate hangs

By Roy Luarca and Marc Anthony Reyes

THE THUNDEROUS ROAR OF THE SAN Beda Red Lions in the NCAA men's basketball tournament may yet be reduced to a whimper.

This downpour yesterday after the league's management committee (Manacom) disqualified a key player—Yousif Aljamal—from playing in the Lions' remaining games, including San Beda's 2 p.m. tussle against resurgent Jose Rizal at 2 p.m. today at The Arena in San Juan.

The 6-foot-4 Aljamal was penalized for allegedly failing to notify the Manacom of his inclusion in the PBA Rookie Draft held last Sunday where he was chosen as the 6th pick by the Air 21 franchise.

San Beda rector Fr. Pio Manzo de Jesus strongly protested the Manacom decision and appealed to the NCAA policy board to end Aljamal's disqualification.

The policy board, made up of representatives from the member schools, is set to act on Aljamal's case before today's eight-ball tapped by the Mapua-St. Benilde clash at 4 p.m.

"There is no clear-cut policy or any written ruling that an NCAA player who wishes to be part of the PBA needs to secure the permission of the NCAA Manacom," said Dr. Jesus in a press statement. "The decision of the Manacom is clearly unfair and one-sided, and quite contrary to the spirit of collegiality that the NCAA seeks to foster.

"This episode could create the misperception that the NCAA is, in fact, not supportive of its players seeking to move up in the professional ranks."

The defending champion Lions have won their last three games en route to a pocketing 8-win, 1-loss record and a berth in the Final Four. They advanced ahead of the idle Letran Knights, who are assured of a playoff for a semifinal slot at 7-3.

The third-running Heavy Bombers (6-3) are looking to put a foot inside the Final Four when they battle the Lions.

Even JRU coach Nelo Vargantin is surprised by his wards' five game-winning run.

"We have discovered the fire within us and that showed in how we played in the past five games," said Vargantin after his wards dispatched of Perpetual Help, 69-62, last Aug. 9. "Things are going well for us right now."

A loss justnix game pitting the Lighters against the Red Cubs at 11:30 a.m. completes the day's schedule.

The Cardinals (5-6) try to close out their eliminations schedule with a victory that would give Mapua at least a solider match for the last Final Four slot.

A loss will jeopardize Mapua's chances because it could no longer get a stick with which idle San Sebastian (4-5) can still achieve.

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Piccio grabs Malaysia lead after 67

MIA PICCIO SIZZLED WITH a BOGEY-free five-under-par 67 Tuesday to storm into local bunt competence Ellen Ng to Rizda Jaffrey through Malaysian Junior Open at the Sanjana Golf and Country Club in Kuala Lumpur.

Six shots off the lead overnight, Piccio rattled off three birdies in the first nine then added two more on fives 11 and 17 while coming pars in the last seven she erased the green the lead Rizda byone shot-in-a total of 141.

Rizda, the first second leader, lo-

PICCIO: 1 shot

a possible 1-2-3 finish in the 54-hole tourney which drew players from nine countries.

Michelle Ting of Malaysia lay fourth with 148 nine in front of runner's Grace Lobo Au Chee (75) and Singapore's Amanda Chin (74).

Bambee dela Paz and Louise Manatad fell behind with 82-158 and 86-159, respectively.

Marivic Dejan fired a 74 and dropped to 15th place at 160, seven shots off Ahmad Yamani Hazni (70) and Taiwanese Hsu Hua-sheng (71). Brent Steinmetzer struggled to a 77 and slipped to a 16th at 162.

Welcoat keeping Joe at all costs

By Marang B. Castillo

TIRED TO DELUDE.

That's what Welcoat will be doing in the next few days when manager-coach Chito Narvasa Jr. unveils his 12-man lineup for the Philippine Basketball Association.

After winning only seven games in their first two commercial conference season, the Dragons now have a chance to build enough cushion to avoid the last-place finish.

"They look deserve what we are preparing to give," co-owner Raymond Yu told Inquirer over the phone yesterday.

Governor will get a three-year salary worth of P6.6 million.

The third overall pick Fil-American to be drafted No. 1 will receive P1,500,000 a month in his first year, P2,025,000 in his second and P2,517,000 in his third upset from bonus and performance incentives.

Delaney, meanwhile, will be offered P550,000 a month for the next two years.

Pacquiao works out with wife watching

By Sidney L. Lagumbay *Contributor*

CEBU CITY—WITH WIFE JINKEE WATCHING, MANNY PACquiao breezed through a vigorous three-hour workout yesterday at the four "Pinkies" failed gym here, prompting watchers to declare that the southpaw looking fierce it ready to fight Mexico Antonio Barrera once today.

Pacquiao and Barrera are set to trade leathers on Oct. 6 in a rematch of their 2003 battle won by the Filipino by technical knockout in the 11th round.

Jinkee, who arrived in the city with Pacquiao, former Freddie Roach and Dubay Fernandez, looked relaxed throughout the afternoon session where her husband pounded his training mates.

"I have to be here, while my baby (13-month-old Mary Divine Grace) is in the hotel," Jinkee said in Cebuano, translated to the southpaw being sent inside the gym. "My husband also needs attention, you know."

"This is fabrero ninigo," exclaimed Mexican David Sedeño. "Very hot!"

CLOSE-WIRED: As Manny Pacquiao portrends the speed bag, the lucky souls allowed in on the floor "Pinkies" SUAN Gym, the child in included, marvel at their idol's amazing dexterity. CHRISTOPHER LOPEZ

Sedeño sparred against Pacquiao on Monday and got some rude awakener when he was momentarily stunned in the third round before being allowed to continue.

Coach conceded he received fling the jump of sixteen strike in previous days, when him scored to climbing a 10-foot wall to watch Pacquiao train.

"We emphasized more power, and more techniques in a six-round mix session," said Hernandez, while Pacman banged away at the mitts while shouting "Manila let."

Today, Pacquiao is set to spar once against against Sedeño.

Another Mexican sparmate, Fernando Beltran Jr. is also set to enter today while the third sparmate, Speedy Gonzalez, arrives tomorrow.

"We're pretty much ahead of schedule," said trainer Roach after the three-hour session. "Whatever is at a point where we want him to be. We're doing some new stuff, and we should be ready when we fly to Los Angeles on Sept. 15."

Roach has been shuttling up in a conditioning report, even waking up very early in the morning to join his ward in his morning runs at the Area Town IT Park and Alta Vista Golf and Country Club.

Pacman helps two RP pugs shoot for stars

LOS ANGELES—THE ORIGINAL PLAN was to do a story and, slowly but surely.

There was no rush, whatsoever.

Miz Gee Manny Pilod of North Graduate had never hoped to have any of his upcoming talented fighters immediately featured in a big Las Vegas card.

Of course, he wanted two or three bouts in his grooming stable to follow the footsteps of Manny Pacquiao, who his is big to the United States after gambling with his career when the chips were down.

But the plan was for their young prospects to first enroll in a rested American training camp, not necessarily at Wild Card Jones, where they would train and toughen up, before shooting for the stars in glittering Las Vegas.

* * *

The long, winding road to Las Vegas has been electrifying.

All Pilod had to do was travel to Cebu City, where Pacquiao is deep in training for his Oct. 6 rematch with Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera.

When Pilod emerged from a huddle with Pacquiao, trainer Freddie Roach and international matchmaker Rex "Mahar" Gabayloon Monday, he was in a joyful, ecstatic mood.

Pacquiao has now to it that two top boxers from the Sturdevant Stable in Sidoponsom City managed by Pilod in a team-up with Chicago-based Filipino sportsman Rolando Hiro, until flight in the underward of his research with Barrera.

It's fun, here to give more promising Filipino boxers a chance to shine in the lucrative American boxing market, Pacquiao was quoted as saying.

* * *

Yesterday, a humbled Pilod was on the phone to confirm that WBO-Asia Pacific Middle featherweight champion Glenn Gonzales, 23, and the talented Sweetstrength Andy Matsuo, 22, will soon leave for the United States.

But before they could push their bags, these top pugs from Mindanao will have to travel to Cebu, check in at the BWS gym and train with Pacquiao.

"I want to show them how hard I train," Pacquiao said.

As could be expected, Gonzales and Matsuo, trained by Sol Pilod, will be under the supervision of Roach, one time Trainer of the Year.

Who knows? Maybe all Pilod had wanted was for a few of his boxers to be able to train at the Cebu gym under the guidance of Roach while Pacquiao is still working out in the country.

* * *

You see, part of the original plan was for at least three Sturdevant fighters to train in a mixed Chicago gym because, as Pilod maintained, WBA Card was already too crowded and Roach had enough hassles than he couldn't effectively handle.

Also, who else best helping in the upkeep of the Sturdevant fighters from his Chicago cool—sending structure, fighting assistance and equipment, while helping Pilod promote fights—was to provide board and lodging for the fighters in their UE training.

Moreover, that Chicago part of the initial plan had to be shelved following the knockout defeat of Rodel Mayol in his world junior flyweight title bid on Aug. 4.

Because Mayol, who looked rusty-unmotivated and unprepared, was handled by the same trainer who was supposed to mold and shape up the first wave of Sturdevant fighters from Sidoponsom.

Anyway, it's very likely Pacquiao was repaying Pilod a debt of gratitude in instructing accompanying Gonzales (16 wins, 1 draw, 6 KOs) and Sweetstrength Matsuo (11 wins, 1 draw, 9 KOs) to the Golden Vegas blockbuster.

Pilod had to gamble with the shirt on his back to settle to promote Pacquiao, at least twice in Bulgaxenas and once in Davao, when the boxing superstar was trying to pick up the pieces of his career following his tragic 1999 disfigurement as WBC flyweight king in Thailand.

Big games propel Paeng, Jojo to top

ROVELINE LEGEDIO PAIRS NIE pennacorns and nemesis mesmerizer Jojo Galiare rolled big games to easily make the quarterfinals of the 2007 Goldwin/AMP World Cup national finals Sunday and Monday at Hemig's Hibiscus Bowl in Bonifacio.

Negrenseno burned the lanes for 2697 pinfalls in his several 12 games set to collect a 24-game total of 5614, opening a commanding 380-pin lead over second-running Benny Dayos (5426) and home his bid for another shot at the World Cup when he has set the series an unprecedented four times.

Negrenseno soared hot in the last 10 games after starting second and day of action with 199 and 204. He began blanking down the pairs with marksmanship after that, shooting 227 in the third and following this with 244, 233, 203, 227, 267, 245, 276 and 242.

Galiare, who is seeking back-to-back national PC titles, highlighted her second 10-game outing with 2,714 and 2,779 shaves to bank with 4551, and an 180-pin edge over Lita del Rosario (4511) getting into the ladies' quarterfinals.

Also making it to the top eight were Jaymee Bautista with 3633, Ellen Ramos (3777), Rai Cruz (3777), Mary Calanoy (3790), Nelia Langbein (3894), and Lorelie Candaso (3887).

Reigning world Hyatt titlist Alicia Rivera was in third spot in the men's division, 281 off Negrenseno with 5353, while last year's champion Meadows Ye ranked fifth at 5290.

The other remaining contenders from an original field of 64 are Julius Ye, fourth at 5341, Vince Fernando, sixth (5253), Heidi Valdez, seventh (5204), and Rodolfo Laponi, eighth, 5177.

The unpredictable—and last—phase of the competition begins at noon today at SM Mall of Asia Center, where the quarterfinalists figure to be the best-of-three, head-to-head knockout matches.

UAAP board member Tuka Alunan (second from left) talks about Olympian's sixth season while coach Eric Altamirano (left), Ateneo director Cesar Montalvan, PBA chair Tony Chua-ot and Red Bull cool cat PBA OIC Jessy Barrios look on. ARCHIVES PHOTO

Generals seek No. 4 sans star

THE EMILIO AGUINALDO COLLEGE GENerals goes for a fourth straight Universities and Colleges Athletic Association basketball title starting Saturday sans top star Bonjay Bautista, a second-round draft pick to the PBA.

Coach Nestor Mia, appearing in yesterday's weekly PBA forum sponsored by Shakey's Division and Pepsi, said Bautista is a big loss but maintains the Generals still have a reliable unit, bolstered by veterans Rony Mabuyson and Nico Pamintuan.

"Medyo up (It's hard), but we'll be fine," said Mia. "We're still optimistic about our campaign."

The tournament, which opens its sixth edition on Saturday at The Arena in San Juan, will also have in the fold Asian College of Science and Technology, Olivarez College, St. Francis of Assisi, La Salle-Dasmariñas, Philippine School of Business Administration and mobile nurses University College of Nursing and Cavite Wesleyan College.

Nine-time Tuka Alunan of PBA expects the fifth team to be wide open.

SPORTSWATCH

Madera tops Pichay chess, takes home P100,000

INTERNATIONAL MASTER HAVILE Madera downed National Master Ernesto Fernandez in the undefeated final-round to top the recent 4th Prospero Pichay Sr. Memorial Open Chess Tournament at the Rotunda Auditorium of Technology in Quezon.

Madera finished unbeaten and garnered 6.5 points in nine outings, to close with 66 Elmer Dimakiling in the seventh round.

Madera pocketed P50,000 in the event held annually to honor the late father of Makati Dona Federation of the Philippines president Prospero Pichay Jr.

Tied for second to fourth places with 7 points apiece were IM Richard Bitoon, NM Mindanao Magsa and NM Emmanuel Senador, each received P20,000.

Marlon Saenamboc, Contributor

FBL hoops lures 59 teams

FIFTY-NINE TEAMS FROM 40 DIOCESES OF Metro Manila and nearby provinces will compete in the third season of the Filipinas Basketball League of BLJ starting Sept. 16 at the Xavier Gymnasium in San Juan.

The league, which has nine recognized rules by local dictionary, will have ninth Masses and San Juan Bautista Parish as the opening "Pinkpasty" to their respective dioceses.

Masses will be dedicated to the 4 Virtues' events like visible SEC-Bulacan will try to keep its title in the 11-13 ballgirls division.

The other two divisions of the league, presented by Pinkwad Multivitamins and Calcium Supplement, are the 14-16 and the 17-under divisions for both boys and girls.

3 former world champions banner stellar APPT field

THREE FORMER CHAMPIONS OF THE World Series of Poker, the world's biggest and most prestigious poker tournament, banner a star-studded field being court in the inaugural leg of the Asia Pacific Poker Tour (APPT) slated at the 28-at The Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila on Pedro Gil Street.

World Poker Tour champ Daniel Negreanu (2004) and last Barbara Wyrick (Series winner in 2005), both representing Team PokerStars, team up heavy favorites in the opening round of Asia's premier poker tournament presented by PokerStars and sanctioned by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

Another last-called foreign entry to the event which offers P20 million in prize money is Hasbro son Monsour Matthews, the Rock-ing Fil-Am from the Pinkish Dunes.

Leading the Filipino challengers is Neil Rubio, who cashed in more than $50,000 in the World Series on Las Vegas last April.

For inquiries, call (63-2) 7522880 or visit www.appt.com.ph.

Pasay derby screening today

THE SCREENING OF UNITED FOR THE "Battle of Big Shoes" 7 mpg derby will be held today until Sunday at Pasay City Cockpit.

Pit manager Eric dela Rosa said that only slugs landed by NFSB, USAB, NSBA, SPBA, Run-UBB, Pagbet, CVBA, RSBA and Bigfoot will be accepted for screening.

Slated on Aug. 31, Sunday is supported by Sagupaan Complaint 2000.

"Whose time, as to participant must hold all seven slugs in one day," said dela Rosa.

Big fights slated at Makati

STAGE FOR ACTION BLASTS OFF AT THE Makati Coliseum on Aug. 27 and 28 as the annual Richard L. Gahol Jr.-Mag Derby, featuring more than 70 gamecock breeders from all over the country.

The event, which offers a guaranteed prize of P700,000, opens with the 2-day elimination on Monday with the 8-slug championship round set on Wednesday.

The Mayor Powerful Mag derby, meanwhile is next on Sept. 3, followed by the PCAP 5-slug derby on Sept. 6.

'Stagwars' kick off Friday

THE "STAGWARS" 3-DAY DERBY, A gathering of about 200 gamecock breeders, starts on Friday at the 7,000-seat Candaba Fair Coliseum Complex, the biggest cockpit in Pinoy province.

To be hosted by 1000 Advent Stephen Cup champion Boy Mateo, Ronnie Lacuesta and Robert Sanchez, the seven-way battle on Aug. 24, 25, 26, 31, Sept. 2, 3, 8 and 9 daughts a guaranteed purse of P1.5-million.

Today fee is P1,000.

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

$5-million bond for cagers' robbers

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS—HOME RECRUIT OF 30 MILLS BRINGS FOR two men accused of hanging and robbing Allen Park Border Daily Courts all his Chicago mansion. Jimmie H. Hill and Jodiane Lashon are also charged in the armed robbery of Miami Heat's Antonio Wades. AP

SPORTS

Blind woman golfer sinks ace

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA—SHEILA CRAWMORE DON'T NEED TO see her take a shot. She heard it. Encouraged, blinded by diabetes, 39 years ago, onset the 144-yard, par-3 fourth hole at Balboning Valley Country Club on Sunday, while playing with her husband and two friends. AP

NBA stars shoot for Beijing spot

LOS ANGELES, NEVADA—US NATIONAL Basketball Association stars will try to qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympics starting here Wednesday at the US team/PBA Association regional qualifier to decide two berths for China.

The host Americans will be overwhelming favorites to reach the final and seal a spot in Beijing against Caribbean and North and South American rivals including defending Olympic champion Argentina.

"There's a lot of work to be done. It's a long road ahead," US guard and NBA scoring champion Kobe Bryant said. "There are a lot of competitive teams out there and they are going to be ready to play.

"We have to work hard and try to get ourselves to the best possible condition to win the games. We have to be ready. We will be ready."

The US men have been humbled in several events, settling for sixth at the 2002 world championships, third at the 2004 Athens Olympics and third in Japan at last year's worlds, which champion Spain crowned a bronze for Beijing.

All teams face a gauntlet of eight round-robin games, with one day in between. Host semifinalists who play Sept. 1 to determine which clubs qualify for Beijing. The 10 squad opens Wednesday against Venezuela.

Also in Group B is the American on the first round are Brazil, Canada and the US Virgin Islands. Group A round-robin teams are Argentina, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay.

The US roster includes Bryant, LeBron James, Jason Kidd, Carmelo Anthony, Dwyane Wade, Chris Paul, Deron Williams, Jason Kidd, Stoudemire, rookie Kevin Durant, Chauncey Billups, Tayshaun Prince, Tyson Chandler, Dwight Howard, Mich Collins, Mike Miller, LJ Redick and Michael Redd. AFP

Federer gets top seeding with Henin

NEW YORK—WORLD NUMBER ONES Roger Federer and Justine Henin were named by the US Tennis Association as top seeds for the US Open here on Monday, one week before the start of the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

Federer, who will win his 12th Slam title and Open crown record fourth US Open crown in a row, is chasing the all-time Slam singles record of 14 titles held by Pete Sampras, who won the last of his Slams here in 2002.

Reigning US and Australian Open and Wimbledon champion Federer will find out his first opponent in Wednesday's draw. This marks the fourth year in a row that the Swiss star will be the men's top seed at the US Open.

Spain's Rafael Nadal, who beat Federer in the Roland Garros final and made an epic fight before falling in the Wimbledon final, will be the second seed followed in ranking order by Russia's Nikolay Davydenko, Britain's Andy Murray and US veterans Andy Roddick and James Blake.

Henin is followed by Russian second seed and defending champion Maria Sharapova and Serbian third seed Jelena Jankovic. AFP

Rudas siblings head to finals

MELISSA MARIEL AND JUAN RAY Rudas topped their respective groups in the North Luzon finals of the Mike Araneta Trophy Cup competition at the Dolphin Tennis Club in Manila yesterday to earn shots at the national finals which will make trips to the Malaysia junior tennis circuit.

Mariel posted a 1-6, 7-5, 10-4 win over club mate Mary Gonzales in the girls' 14 series while younger brother Juan Ray bested Josh Lester Quinzon of Cavite, 1-6, 6-4, 10-4, in the boys' 12 series.

After getting breaks in the weekend finals set Oct. 6-7 in Manila are Antipas's Marian Capadocia, Jesus Fernandez of San Pedro Tunay and Biel Fuche of Ibn. Bona, Laguna.

Watanabe, Buncio overall champions

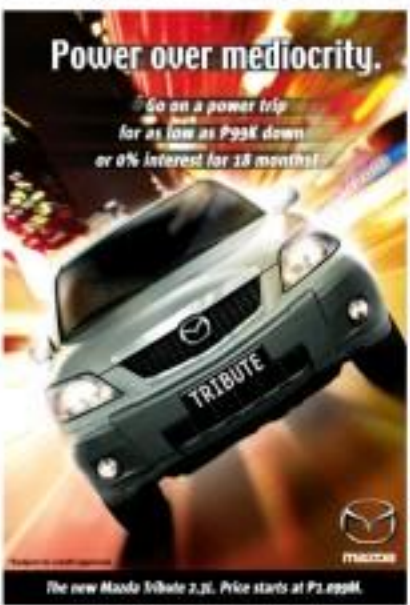
ISLAMABAD DAISUKE Watanabe of Kawasaki and Rhino Buncio of Tanabe Ltd. raced in the final leg but piled up enough points to capture the overall titles in their respective divisions in the season 2007 San Miguel Cup Philippine Endurance King Championship at the Subic Bay Racing Circuit.

The 13-year-old Watanabe crossed up third behind Anthony Romeo and Benny Bayaquit, enough to claim the overall 100cc Petron Super Stock plum.

Buncio, despite finishing only seventh and second, earned 36 points for the day to clinch the overall 125 Sports Production crown with 170 points.

Rainier Rosello clocked 17:50.244 to bag top honors in the final leg of the 125 Sports Production, a part of the 2007 Shell Helix Grand Prix sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namsa).

The win was Rosello first in said division.



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Peso weakens to 46.90 to a dollar

Analysts say stock rebound can abate currency's decline

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO INITIALLY REBOUNDED AGAINST the dollar yesterday following the fresh interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve, but the local currency failed to sustain the early lead due to unabated selldown pressures from offshore investors.

At the local financial markets resumed trading after a long weekend, the peso opened strongly against the dollar at 46.38 that closed weaker at the day's low of 46.90 on continuing cash conversion by foreign investors, currency traders said.

At the end of the day, the local currency shed another 5 centavos from Friday's finish of 46.85 to a dollar. Trading volume at the Philippine Dealing System was thin at $100.66 million compared to Friday's $516.75 million.

Although the US Fed's half-a-percentage cut in its discount rate—to the rate at which it lends to banks—boosted global stock markets, currency traders said selldown orders that accumulated since last week before the markets closed 0.6 x long weekend weighed down on yesterday's trading.

They also said that there was still strong pressure from offshore investors to unload regional currencies in line with the growing aversion to emerging market assets.

Some currency traders said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas was unloading dollars at yesterday's intraday low of 46.90 against the greenback.

"So it looks like this barrier is holding, but if it doesn't, the next target will be 47.30 and then 48.20," a currency trader said.

But other traders said the rebound of the stock market yesterday should bode well for the peso in the days ahead.

"Risk aversion kept the peso weaker. However, equity recovery could see some correction to the 46.85-46.75 levels," said Banco de Oro chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. senior vice president Ricardo Ayre said prospective cuts in the US fed funds rate, the most significant interest rate benchmark in the United States, by September or even earlier should provide a silver lining to the battered financial markets.

The US Fed funds rate covers the rate at which banks in the world's biggest economy lend to one another.

Ayre said the d ness becoming more difficult to trade in the financial markets than days because of the extreme volatility.

"It's because the market as a whole is dilapped. About three half of investors from North America are on holiday and we're expected the so-called ghost month in June," Ayre said.

Gov't stake in Meralco to be sold this year

By Abigail L. Ho

DEPUTY SPEAKER: DOST FOR months left in the year, the Department of Finance is sticking to its target of selling the government's 29-percent stake in Manila Electric Co. without bid protest.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the planned sale was only under study, but that could be done either within this quarter or in the next.

Eight more, he said there were a number of strategic investors interested in acquiring the Meralco shares, but their identities could not be disclosed yet.

The Lopez family, which cur-

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Make Every Day Exciting

PLDT plan to expand coverage bucked

By Rico T. Olchondra

MANILA, Philippines — Two companies have opposed the plans of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to further expand its network.

Globe subsidiary Innove and Philippine Global Communications Inc. said in filings before the National Telecommunications Commission that there were already enough operators in the provinces, and that PLDT's expansion could lead to "ruinous competition."

Earlier this year, PLDT obtained a provisional authority to operate in regions 3 and 4, as well as region 8 to 12, ARMM and Caraga, in addition to its existing operations in Metro Manila. PLDT said it has not completely moved these regions and wanted to operate in "certain areas not yet covered" by its authorization.

"The approval of the application may inevitably result in unregulated competition and prevent the existing authorized carriers from profitably recovering the considerable investment that they have infused into their operations," Globe and Innove said in filing.

Globe Telecom Inc. rival Innove, and listmate, Bayan Telecommunications Inc. (Baycal) earlier gave the same reasons for opposing PLDT's application.

"The entry of PLDT will only bring about economic competition, however said.

"The operation of the proposed service would constitute needless, wasteful and uneconomic duplication of existing telecommunications services provided by Bayan, resulting in a waste of valuable resources," Bayan added.

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Gov't stake ...

...

...mainly controls Meralco, has expressed interest in acquiring the government's stakes in the distribution utility.

In an earlier interview, Meralco chair and chief executive Manuel Lopez said his family was now in talks with potential partners to raise some $300 million to bid for the government's 29-percent stake in Meralco.

He added that the Lopez clan, together with its partners, would submit a bid, whether for the entire government stake, or for stakes to be sold separately by government entities holding shares in Meralco.

The national government, Land Bank of the Philippines and pension funds Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System together hold the 29-percent stake in Meralco.

"Originally, we were thinking of selling it as a block for strategic investors. That's still our preference. Selling it as a block will be more lucrative as it will give the owners a sort of premium, since for it to be sold separately," PSGC (Banyan Development Corp.)," he told reporters.

Banks charge too much for overseas money transfers - part 2

ROBERTO SINUE-zon, after sending last week's column in the inquirer website, e-mailed a letter from San Diego, California.

He said that the transmission costs, aside from charging a high fee, tend to greatly cut right at the source. For example, if the exchange rate in Manila is P40-45 to $1, the general will only receive around P40 for every dollar sent.

I never knew that this happens when the money is being sent to the recipient's peso bank account in Manila, or if the money, such as Union Bankcorp, is to deliver the pesos to the recipient personally.

But, if the money is to be sent directly to the recipient's dollar account in Manila, then the recipient will have to be actually credited with dollars.

In which case, the bank in Manila, after charging the recipient 2+ pesos to free, will hold on to the dollars for as long as it can, sometimes as long as 45 days, essentially if the peso is expected to get stronger, so that the final peso credit will be less.

No matter how you look at it, the banks take them grossly out coming or going.

The Overseas Filipino Bankers to the Middle East have a similar problem as Mr. Sinue-zon has.

Since the OFW has to send money home every month, he grapples with the problem of high transaction fees in a different way.

The struggling boss of the pawning bank in Manila has a standard of P1,000 bills he can deposit in a bank only in the end of running of out of OFW's and money he sends home.

Since he cannot explain to the bank where he got all that money he launders the cash by appointing an agent in the Middle East to tap OFW dollars. Because of the high transaction charges, it is easy to embed the banks.

The OFW is offered an attractive rate. He sells his dollars to the agent, and sends a text message to his wife to pick up the corresponding pesos at the smuggler's place.

The only good thing I find in this is: The transaction is entirely on the honor system. Honest changes hands without any invoices to provide by the government or the bank.

The Bangko Sentral's anti-money laundering council will find it extremely difficult to stop this money laundering scheme. Besides, where will you find the government functionary who will have the heart to chase the OFW's lonely benefactor?

Also all, there are only benefactors: the family together paying the installments on the house and sending the children to school while her husband is away.

The best way to stop this money laundering is for the banks to compete with the pawning trade by charging reasonable transaction fees. There, the OFW does not have to sell his dollars to some dirty agent and send his wife sneaking into the pawning [illegible].

Maybe Senator Angara's committee on banks should look into these remittance problems of Filipinos abroad, who are supposed to be the new heroes of the land. The banks are not treating our Filipinos abroad as heroes. Instead, they are treated as pawns.

10-yr T-bond rate inches up to 7.75%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE YIELD ON THE 10-YEAR TREASURY bonds rushed up yesterday despite the government's improved fiscal performance in July as investments over the US subprime woes spilled over to the domestic bond market.

The new rate for the long-term bonds hit 7.75 percent, up 66.23 basis points from the 7.268 percent recorded during the last auction for the 10-year government securities in June.

The Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted only P8.631 billion worth of bids, falling short of its plan to raise about P7 billion.

Tenders reached P18.915 billion.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, who is also acting national treasurer, said the BTr decided to accept only a portion of the debt offering to prevent a further increase in the rate for the 10-year bonds.

Had the BTr accepted the P7 billion worth of bids as mandated, the yield on the 10-year bonds could have reached 8 percent, he said.

"We thought that 8 percent was too high, and so we accepted only an amount that would align the rate at the secondary market," Tan said in a text message after the auction yesterday.

The finance official said though that there was not too much activity in the secondary market due to concerns over the US subprime market. The subprime market covers loans extended to borrowers with a spotty credit history.

Fears of defaults in the US caused stock markets to dive last week, but many have started to recover after the US federal bailout was announced.

DOF: Gov't borrowed 15% less in 1st 7 months

Appreciating peso, decline in interest rates led to reduced borrowing

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT borrowed P289.97 billion in the first seven months of the year to help plug its budget deficit and pay off maturing liabilities, data from the Department of Finance showed.

The borrowings for January to July recorded a 15-percent drop from the P341.49 billion gained in the same period a year ago.

Finance officials said the drop in borrowings was attributed to the expected decline in the budget deficit and improvement in macroeconomic conditions, such as lower interest rates and stronger peso.

A drop in interest rates means that the government will be spending less to pay for interest on its loans. Appreciation of the peso tends to trim the government's foreign currency denominated debt in local currency terms.

Borrowings as of July already represented 76 percent of the P380.951 billion deficit the government programmed to borrow for the entire year to meet all its expenditure requirements that cannot be accommodated due to insufficient revenues.

Data showed that, of the total borrowings, P103.706 billion were sourced from foreign lenders. Foreign currency denominated borrowings come either in the form of official development assistance (ODA) or commercial loans obtained through financiers of sovereign bonds in the international capital market.

The country's biggest sources of ODA are the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

The amount of foreign borrowings recorded as of July includes the P150 billion obtained from the sale of global bonds to the international capital market in January.

The higher share of P186.267 billion was composed of borrowings from the domestic capital market, particularly through the sale of Treasury bills and bonds.

The government has adopted the policy of borrowing more from domestic sources, in order to minimize the effects of a possible depreciation of the peso, which can lead to bloated foreign-currency denominated debts.

Finance Undersecretary Robert Tan said the government is committed to trim down its budget deficit according to what has been programmed under the Arroyo administration's fiscal agenda until 2010.

Under the program, the government should reduce its deficit to P65 billion this year from last year's P64.0 billion and balance its budget by 2008.

"It is only after we balance the budget that we can reduce our outstanding debt, and therefore lessen our need for borrowings," he said.

While appreciation of the peso somehow eases the pressure of foreign-currency denominated debts, a marked reduction in the government's outstanding liabilities would only show once it posts a budget surplus, he added.

Latest figure from the BSP showed that the government's outstanding debt is at P3.619 trillion as of May this year.

Philex eyes Diwalwal gold mines

By Dasirn L. Lasa

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST FILIPINO-owned mining firm has expressed its interest in setting up operations in the gold-rich Mount Diwalwal Mining Reservation – a move which could help the government harness the potential of the controversial area.

In an interview with the business, Philex Mining Corp. chair and CEO Walter W. Brown said that he had recently made his intentions known to government authorities in charge of developing what is touted as the Philippines' richest gold mine.

"We are going for Diwalwal," he said. "We've already talked to the government, and we want a position in it."

Mount Diwalwal in Compostela Valley is estimated to hold as much as $10 billion in gold reserves, according to the latest government estimates.

The area is a hotbed of unrest, however, with small miners, indigenous people, the local government, the military and rebel units fighting for control of the lucrative gold panning operations.

According to Brown, Philex is uniquely positioned to develop the area, and second whose other mining firms have failed.

"We are familiar with all the factors involved," he said. "We have been in the business for many years. We have the local network and we know the LGUs (local government units) and the indigenous people."

"No foreign company has the experience that we have," Brown replied when asked about the foreign mining firms also interested in Mount Diwalwal.

He added that Philex also has the technical know-how equal to that of foreign miners, on top of having cash on hand due to the high prices of metals in recent years on the world market.

If the deal is sealed, Brown said, the Diwalwal project will add to Philex's existing portfolio, on top of its new gold exploration site in Sipocot, Camarines Sur.

Jobs, opportunities hinge on ratification of JPEPA

By Rommel W. Dionisio

AN INITIAL BATCH OF 500 nurses and caregivers may be deployed in Japan as soon as the Senate ratifies the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement.

But that opportunity could be lost if Japanese were to secure its own EPA with Tokyo, according to Cabinet officials.

Officials from the department of trade, foreign affairs and labor and employment said that the JPEPA mandates no opportunities, especially now that Tokyo is opening its service sector to foreigners for the first time in history.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino yesterday feared a joint press conference to appear the media of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council's position on the JPEPA.

"JPEPA is a means to empower our people to take advantage of opportunities," Aquino said. "Without JPEPA, the Philippines would not enjoy greater market access that is originally born in Southeast Asia would be enjoying through their own EPAs."

Aquino, who had been the country's chief negotiator during the JPEPA talks, noted that Japan has wrapped up similar agreements with Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, and is in the process of negotiations with other Southeast Asian countries.

He said that, without the JPEPA, Philippine exports to Japan would not enjoy preferential tariffs unlike those from Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia and even Vietnam. Also, Filipino professionals would not have access to jobs in Japan-unlike those from the same countries.

Domingo L. Siazon Jr., Philippine ambassador to Japan, said the Japanese government was ready to ratify the treaty – mainly to liberalize its economic relations with the Philippines – as early as this month.

Under the JPEPA, Japan would shoulder expenses for six months of training, including board and lodging and a monthly stipend of P4000 or 47,000 yen," Siazon said. "If there is no JPEPA, no nurses and caregivers can't go. The opportunity would go to the Indonesians because the same concession are provided in their own EPA."

Siazon also said a positive action from the Senate was best arrived at before the end of the year to give time for Tokyo to allot funds for the training.

According to the latter, JPEPA would result in increased economic growth for the Philippines, ranging from 1.7 percent to 3.3 percent of overall output.

Important Facts about NCLEX Testing in Manila

- **When will NCLEX testing begin in Manila?**

  NCLEX testing in Manila will commence in August 21, 2007. Scheduling for examination appointments began on July 13, 2007.

- **How do I register to take the NCLEX?**

  Procedures for registering to take the NCLEX in Manila may be done by mail, telephone or via the internet through Pearson VUE. More information may be obtained from the website of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and Pearson VUE at www.ncsbn.org and www.pearsonvue.com, respectively.

- **Where and how often will NCLEX testing be held?**

  NCLEX testing will be held from Mondays to Saturdays at the Pearson Professional Center located in Trident Tower, 312 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The procedures for registration in other international test centers apply to the Manila test center as well.

- **Who will administer the NCLEX in Manila?**

  Just like in other international test centers for NCLEX, Pearson VUE will conduct the NCLEX for the NCSBN. All aspects of exam delivery and administration shall be handled exclusively by Pearson VUE.

- **What is the role of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and the Presidential Task Force on NCLEX (PTF-NCLEX) in NCLEX testing?**

  The role of CFO and the PTF-NCLEX is to ensure that all NCSBN concerns regarding examination security and protection of intellectual property rights are addressed effectively and in a timely manner. We therefore urge the public, especially the nurses who intend to take their NCLEX at the Manila test center to cooperate with the CFO in ensuring that the Philippines remains to be a safe and secure site for the conduct of the NCLEX.

- **Does the CFO or PTF-NCLEX endorse review centers for the NCLEX?**

  The CFO or the PTF-NCLEX does not and will not endorse review centers for the NCLEX examination. We believe that there are more effective means for nurses to prepare for the NCLEX examination. For example, nurses may download NCLEX test plans from the NCSBN website, free of charge. NCLEX test plans provide a concise summary of the content and scope of the NCLEX examination, a useful guide for nurses intending to take the examination.

- **Are we assured of a permanent NCLEX test center in Manila?**

  No. NCSBN periodically assesses its international testing sites and decides whether or not they should continue to operate. In April 30 this year, a Korean publication reported that the NCSBN suspended testing in Seoul upon findings that a local nursing school was caught giving lectures based on questions from previous NCLEX examinations. It is therefore essential for the public to understand that the continued operation of NCLEX testing in Manila rests heavily in our ability to check illegal activity that may endanger examination security.

5 DON'TS for a safe and secure NCLEX testing center in Manila

1. **Don't patronize pirated NCLEX materials.**
2. **Don't illegally reproduce NCLEX materials.**
3. **Don't patronize materials from individuals or entities claiming to have access to past NCLEX questionnaires.**
4. **Don't reconstruct NCLEX test questionnaires.**
5. **Don't entertain offers from individuals or entities who offer money in exchange of reconstructing NCLEX test questionnaires.**

The activities above are illegal and may result to legal, administrative and professional sanctions against violators.

If you are aware of individuals or entities conducting the abovementioned activities, please contact the Presidential Task Force on NCLEX at:

Tel. no. [632] 561-0360 / 561-8321 loc. 601
Fax no. [632] 561-8333
E-mail: info@ithcloc.org.ph / info@cfo.gov.ph

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON NCLEX

"It is one thing to bring the NCLEX to the Philippines and another matter to keep its conduct secure within our shores. We therefore enjoin the public to assist us in ensuring that the Philippines remains to be a secure international testing site for the NCLEX, a testament to our esteemed reputation as the top provider of health workforce all over the world."

Secretary Dante A. Ang
Chairman
Commission on Filipinos Overseas and
Presidential Task Force on NCLEX

a public service announcement from

PEARSON VUE · NCSBN National Council of State Boards of Nursing · COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

EMILIANA T. DELA MERCED

"Ka Miling"

Passed away peacefully on August 21, 2007 at the age of 94.

She will be missed by her loving children **Narciso, Nestor, Norberto Jr.** and **Eleanor**; in-laws, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Her remains lie in state at Sanctuarium (Chapel Fleurdelis) at 739 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the UP System Bids and Awards Committee, University of the Philippines System, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than 9:30 pm on September 6, 2007 at the UP System Supply and Property Management Office, Basement, Quezon Hall, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City for the collection of Contractor (Renovation of the Executive House).

Total approved budget ceiling: Php 2,000,000.00

The Pre-bid conference will be held on August 24, 2007 at 9:00 am, at UP System Supply and Property Management Office, Basement, Quezon Hall, UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City.

Bid documents at Php 2,000.00 per set are available starting August 23, 2007 at the UP System Supply and Property Management Office, Basement, Quezon Hall, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Contact person: Mr. Joaquin L. Bagas, Officer-in-Charge, UP System Supply and Property Management Office, Telefax No.: 926-4013

The University of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality acquired in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) ARIEL S. INTON
Chair, UP System Bids and Awards Committee

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It will feature a combination of photos and articles about PMAP and our activities to show readers a glimpse of how we have been for the past 51 years. It may also feature other materials that members like you will find interest on.

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Credit Suisse begins onshore Equity Research in RP

CREDIT SUISSE RECENTLY ANnounced it has started onshore equity research in the Philippines and has appointed two highly rated analysts to the team. Gilbert Lopez has joined as a director and head of research for the Philippines. He reports to Ali Naqvi, head of equity research for Asia ex-Japan.

Lopez, who has 13 years of research experience, covers banks, conglomerates and property. He earned Cum Maxquisite Innovation Philippines, where he was ranked number 1 in the Greenwich Europe survey, number 2 in the Greenwich US Survey and number 2 in the Greenwich Asia survey. He is a certified public accountant and holds a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy degree from De La Salle University.

Ethier Trinidad has joined as a vice president to cover telcos and utilities. A telecommunications sector specialist with 11 years of research experience, he has also covered food and beverage and construction. Trinidad, who joined from CLSA Philippines, has an MBA and a Bachelor of Science in Commerce from De La Salle University.

"The appointments of Gilbert and Ethier strengthen our equity research offering in Asia ex-Japan and complement our strong investment banking franchise on the ground," said Ali Naqvi. "We see emerging markets as an area of focus and bringing equity research analysts is part of that strategy. We are optimistic about the future outlook of the country and the economy."

Credit Suisse's Asia ex-Japan equity research team is recognized as a premier franchise in the region. The team was ranked number 1 by Institutional Investor in its data analyst awards announced this year.

MFI CALAMBA BRANCH LAUNCHED

MFI Technological Institute (formerly Mendoza Foundation Institute) held the grand launching and blessing of its Calamba satellite located at the 2nd Floor of Calamba Executive Center in the Calamba Crossing in Laguna. The branch is the answer to the growing demands of individuals and industry for quality industrial and technical training in the Southern Luzon area. Shown at the ribbon-cutting were (from left) Antonio M. Enrile, chief operating officer and Gordon MFI; Col. Alex T. Fuentes, MFI president; Joel Lopez of Icon-M; Bernardo Espangco, Foundation Inc. and Rev. Fr. Andres Diaz, officiating priest.

14th nat'l PR Congress slated

THE 14TH NATIONAL PUBLIC RElations Congress of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) is set to be held in Bilas Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City from Sept. 05 to 08.

The Congress brings together hundreds of PR professionals, experts and advocates from business and industry, government, non-profit organizations, hospitals, schools, hotels and professional services who represent various industries and sectors.

PRSP is the country's premiere organization for public relations professionals. The Society's 50th anniversary celebration is sponsored by Globe Telecom Inc., DMA Network Inc., Landbank, Manila Electric Co., National Power Corp., Philip Morris, Digicel, San Miguel Corp., Shell Exploration Philippines BV, and United Laboratories Inc.

The media partners for the event include BusinessMirror, Business-World, Journal Group of Publications, Manila Bulletin, Manila Standard Today, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Philippine Star.

Early bird registration rate avail of the special rate (P7,000 only for the 5-day congress) until Aug. 22. For details and registration, call 638-6000 and 638-6011, or e-mail prcongress@prsp.ph or log on to www.prsp.ph.

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UP LINGUA FRANCA PARTNERS WITH GROLIER-SCHOLASTIC

UP Lingua Franca, an academic organization based in UP Diliman that fosters actively in creating a center of academic excellence, partnered with Grolier-Scholastic, "The Most Trusted Name in Learning", for this pre-launch

BDO tapped for Basic share offer

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacsamana

PUBLICLY LISTED ENERGY COMpany Basic Petroleum Corp. said it has tapped BDO Capital & Investment Corp. as its financial adviser for its planned rights and share offer that may raise a total of P1.75 billion, the firm said in a disclosure to the stock exchange.

Basic Petroleum plans to undertake a stock rights offer this year, hoping to raise P720 million, and a follow-on or additional share offer that may generate P1.03 billion.

Proceeds from the follow-on offer will partly fund a major liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) project, officials earlier said.

Basic Petroleum Corp., now recently renamed Basic Energy Corp. to reflect its entry into other forms of energy development, is engaged mainly in oil and gas business.

Basic Petroleum president Oscar de Ayuda Jr. had said that the company would spend roughly P1.8 billion largely for a proposed liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) plant in Sumbanga- del Norte, which would produce 200,000 tons of ethanol a day.

The project is estimated to be operational in two years and will also produce 88 tons of carbon dioxide a day through a co-generation engineering facility.

The rest of the proceeds would go to oil and gas exploration and production.

Republic Act 9367, or the biofuels law, mandates a 5-percent bioethanol blend with gasoline by 2008, which local demand for fuel is seen to reach 269 million liters a year.

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Moody's lowers SMC rating

CREDIT RATING agency Moody's downgraded San Miguel's debt ratings to Ba2 from Ba1 on Tuesday due to lingering uncertainty over the company's plans to diversify into heavy industry.

"The rating has two basis. The uncertainty of the new investment, and the impact on the company's business and financial profile," said Steve Cain, senior Moody's analyst in Hong Kong.

"The Ba1 had incorporated in expectation that San Miguel's financial profile ... would strengthen."

San Miguel declined to comment.

The group's A shares, which are rewritten in local currency, fell 4.2 percent. Its B stock, open to all, declined 5.6 percent.

Southeast Asia's largest food and drink group announced last Friday what it assumed would diversify into mining, power, property and other heavy industries, as banks and spin off its flagship domestic beer business into funds.

The group later said it would invest about P58 billion in new ventures, and the Cain estimates would account for about 10 percent of its total assets.

Cain said reinvesting the investments distributed some of the uncertainty but the said San Miguel's weak performance in the first half was a second reason for the downgrade. However,

Asian stocks extend rally, HK up on China move

HONG KONG—ASIAN STOCKS extended gains yesterday as credit concerns eased and a rally on Wall Street.

Investor confidence was also buoyed by signs after the US Federal Reserve sought to calm markets by slashing a key US bank lending rate on Friday, although concerns about a global credit shortage remained in longer

The latest casualty of the US mortgage crisis was Capital One Financial Corp., which said it would cut 1,900 jobs and shut down a wholesale mortgage unit.

"Even though we see strong gains yesterday there is still lingering concerns about the impact from the US subprime issue to the US economy, We'll still see high volatility," said Kim Eng Securities, an analyst at Goodmorning Shinhan Securities in South Korea.

Underlying persistent doubts about the health of financial markets, Australia's central bank once again pumped sizeable amounts of cash into its banking system to help stave down worsening strains in liquidity.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia Pacific stocks excluding Japan climbed 1.2 percent, extending Monday's 4 percent surge—its biggest one-day gain since June earlier 1999.

The MSCI index is now about 10 percent above a five-month trough plumbed late Friday but still 3.5 percent below the July 24 record high.

Tokyo's Nikkei average closed 1.3 percent higher, adding on Monday's 3-percent rise, as automakers fought exporters such as Sony Corp. and Canon Inc. following declines in the yen.

Exporters tend to benefit from a weaker currency as it boosts the value of overseas sales.

While stocks rising and yen down edging back, the yen is estimated to unwind a recent rally fuelled by selloff in risk appetite. Reuters

Quo vadis

Alan Nathan

Hedge funds require six months notice so they have more time to unravel their positions in an orderly manner and obtain the best terms possible. Others only require 45 days redemption notice and liquidate on the quarter days as investors had to issue redemption notices by May 15 for redemption on Sept. 30. Those funds do not have the luxury of time and will lose money.

Obviously, a number of hedge funds will disappear as at least be reduced in size. Hopefully, they will exert less influence in the future but for the next six months, volatility will remain, more bad news will emerge and markets will react...in while the worst has probably been seen, it is by load still too much. Problems within the sector will appear five weeks ago should probably slide if not new, unless there are losses of up to 50 percent on second and third fixes.

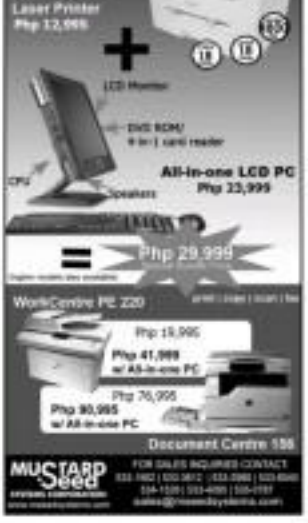
China continues to grow anchored at 11.9 percent but is now encountering inflation problems. Consumer expenditure is rising 6.5% percent and is driving 11% increase in credit due to a shortage of pigs. I find that ironic in the face of the Pig Exposure surged by 34 percent, which is embarrassing, and there are doubts about the safety and quality of Chinese products. After the recall of 18 million toys, including millions of Barbie dolls, there was a Rubric queue at the docks. Another bank rate increase is certain as industrial production grew by 18.3 percent.

The sudden rise in the strength of the yen is likely to push the country's fragile economy back into stagnation or a period of low growth. It will make Japan's exports less competitive and reduce company profits. This is important because Japan is the world's second largest economy currently much bigger than China.

At home the PSEi has taken a terrible beating and most IPOs are now standing at substantial discounts. There will be few issues for future issues and we are now a nation of IPO zombies. Several will be cancelled or deferred.

Had it not been for the countdowns by HSBC and Citi, the sale of its 20-percent stake, the SM would have missed its target for the seventh successive month. The government is trying to cover its up but it looks increasingly doubtful whether the P650-billion deficit target can be attained. There is no certainty that the remaining 40-percent stake will reach the same price and the government might have to settle for less. There are grave doubts as to whether the sale of EIEC will proceed, as there is no agreement as to who owns it. NGCH and PSE are insufficient to plug the gap, as are some properties in Japan.

Yesterday, the PSEi followed all the other financial centres and opened down by 200 points but Banco Santander's offer caused net buying and the market continued to advance, closing almost 30 percent higher at the end of the day. The DOW futures are flat so it is pure guesswork as to how Wall Street will react tonight but whatever it does, we are sure to follow suit here. rsnathan@gmail.com



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MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Manguiat

MICHELLE spent a measly P200 to gas (break-even fuel-usual P1,200 fuel per session) because her car was equipped with an LPG kit courtesy of Tartarone LPG.

20 questions for woman drifter

By Tess R. Salazar

YOU'VE HEARD OF THE often-repeated sugarcoated "you drive car in circles." Well, this lady driver takes that to its full literal potential.

Meet Michelle Yu, who claims to be the first woman drifter in the country. A relative newcomer into the sport, she joined her first tire-burning competition on Aug. 12, after completing her training just five months before that, on June 23 in the exact. Nevertheless, out of the 26 seasoned, all-male participants, she finished 17th, almost making it to the top 10 cutoff.

The setback hasn't dampened her spirits one bit. And because Motoring just caught

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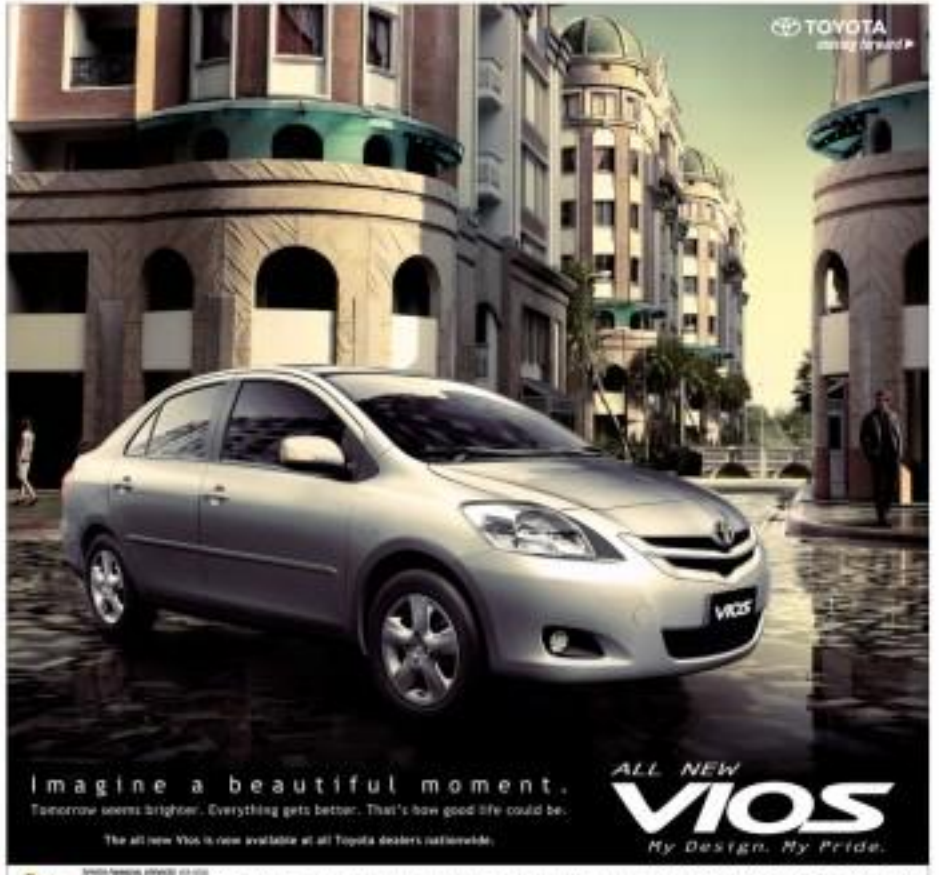

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20 questions for woman drifter

From page B3

Michelle is a rare creature of different ilk, enough of burning around the block, let's get up close and straight with the young woman before the bikes roll again this May.

1 How different is your "regular" car from your "drift" car?

My daily car is just like any normal car out on the market. There are no performance modifications. I'm using the school car because since I'm only learned her June, my not -Drift car would not be finished until mid of this year. It's an SW (Nissan) Cefiro with an RB25 turbo engine. The drift car can also be used as an everyday car, but it's not up with all the performance modifications needed.

2 Do you consider yourself an aggressive street driver?

Before I get into motorsports I was about dared. But now I can say I'm not. I'd still prefer safety on the streets and patience to take aggression on the tracks.

3 Are there any specific car parts you choose exclusively for drifting (e.g. steel-off headers, wood)?

A solid suspension for handling, tires and wheels, and a strong engine. Nothing much, except that I wished I'm softer chassis, racing seats (when you don't fit in seats come at you as you have to stay on your seat, natural car seats won't do), bigger intercooler bodies. There are other additions like proper dampers and the like for better performance. And the most important are nets, and lots of them.

4 Are you the only "lady driver" in the country?

Yes sir! I am the first lady driver who seriously pursued the sport. Plenty back and forth from Manila to Cebu every other week since June 23 to practice and prepare for the event. There is another cute who recently joined.

5 Have you ever had to do any drift maneuvers when you were driving in Metro Manila's streets?

Ah, if I answer this question the MMDA would probably be tracking me down and maybe forbidden. Like I said before, safety first, unless it was a drift demo. You tend to look at things in a different view after learning and honor the sport.

6 Comment on this statement: "Life, like drifting, is controlled chaos. You attempt to have control of something essentially unpredictable."

Yes, I definitely believe that, because drifting is defined by its godfather Ismail Sulaiman and the present Asean 3-champion Ian Isaac—who we both my best bros—is pulling your car out of control we put your and something it. We all don't have full control of our lives. We just live it day to day, right? We can always try to do all the things we believe is right.

7 If you were to entice other girls to participate in drifting, how would you do it? How would you explain this sport to the other ladies?

I would explain to them not to get intimidated by the sport. That it's fun as well as competition. I would also tell them that drifting is just like any sport that would require dedication. But it is anything that we do, we can't just wake up and be good at it, it would take a lot of wait time and time to learn to get there.

8 How much of drifting requires pure talent, how much practice?

How long do you practice in a day, or week?

I think drifting requires 20 to 30 percent on, if your car is set up the wrong way it won't drift. The rest is the skill of the driver. Practice would mean lots more time you have. If you have unlimited supply of tires to burn you can practice every day. We normally practice whole day long intervals.

9 How many tires do you usually go up in a race or practice session? How much fuel?

In a drift practice, we can easily finish two sets in minutes. In last week's competition I finished 2.5 sets. With fuel, I normally use up P3,000 to P3,500 worth of gas. But last race the car was sponsored by Transwise LPG and was equipped to us LPG for so I only spent P200 of gas and a half-tank of LPG.

10 Have you ever gotten a scornful look from environmentalists attacking the "wasteful-ness" of the sport? What would you tell them?

So far with this issue, none yet.

11 What got you into drifting? Why not regular racing, too?

I started getting into rolling up cars last 2006. I started with console setup, then moving and eventually focus on circuit, but drifting is just addictive. The acceleration, adrenaline and the most important is the company. After my lessons I couldn't stop drifting for a week and looked forward to the next time I would be able to drift. And it's still how I feel now after the race last weekend.

12 Who trained you in this sport? Who do you look up to?

I would like to give the credit to DIFF Drift schools resident instructor and pioneer Lemuel D champion Ian Isaac. And friend Sebastian who taught me and continues to teach me advanced techniques. I look up to them as my mentors for being so precise and skillful with the sport.

13 Do you also race on the tires you use? Which ones have you found the toughest, which ones the best suited for drifting?

So far I don't have a live opponent yet. But Federal Tires are the event sponsor for this year. And they have tires specifically designed for drifting. The model would depend on the size of your rims, and the size of the rims would depend on the power of the car.

14 If money was no object, what would be your car of choice for drifting? Why?

A Nissan Sylvia s15. It has everything—the looks, the power and stability to drift already in place.

15 Aside from the rims, which part of the car takes the heaviest punishment?

The engine and the drivers, you would normally eat high most of the time and the G-Force applied to the drivers from going sideways. That is why enforcing the chassis is very important if you want to preserve the life of the car.

16 Do you get bored easily when someone drives for you?

I normally don't let anyone drive for me. I would always prefer to drive myself anywhere I go. Even if most of the time I am the only woman in the group. I still drive my own car even if all the passengers are guys.

17 Have you had any near -death experiences during drift runs? None so far, the organizers ensure safety is first. And make sure all the rules are followed.

18 As a drifter, what would be your highest goals? Where do you plan to attain it?

My goal is to be the champion soon and eventually enter into D1 GP, the international drift competition, in Philippine participation yet, what more if a girl is voted to represent the Philippines? That's the highest.

19 What is your private name inside of you driving alone at midnight or you competing in a riotous drift race?

My name is always consistent, on a private I can't make that away from her. But I always remind her that it's safe and I would not be reckless.

20 Have you driven powerful saloons out of their stands when you literally took them out for a spin? Would you want your boyfriend/husband to be a better driver than you?

Of course I want to be the better driver (laughs). I normally intimidate their bother, that I'm blessed to have a boyfriend who supports me still he was bad to also an exceptional driver. But problem is set up cute milk bodies rather than ice coupes.

Michelle is supported by Nitro Wheels, Monster TV on Studio 23 every Sunday at 1 p.m.), Autoindustriv.com, Wood Hard Auto, Bosun racing seats, and Silun Oil.

The 145-hp, 2.0-liter Duratec HE DOHC engine is mated to a five-speed manual transmission. The 2.0-liter Duratec HE DOHC engine is mated to a five-speed manual transmission.

Diesel Focus

FORD DIVES INTO THE TDCI DEBUT of the Ford Focus TDCI Sport and I had myself all set wanting to give it back just yet. Mind you, this is something of a personal surprise, as it is not easy to pair with the other members of the Focus family that I've tested over the past two years. Something was always out of place, something just didn't seem right.

For all the WRC-related advertising, the Focus just never came across as the sharpest tool in the shed, often as eager as carrying up the open road. Blessed with an able chassis, like the other members of the extended Ford C1 platform family, like the Volvo S40/V50/C70 and the Mazda3, this was a car that begged to be flogged but just never up short from times out of five.

Main culprits

The main culprits in the underwhelming nature of the five-door hatch are easy to identify. Its base engines were routed to long, high-way geared transmissions. Add to this that the Focus barely is not a light car, with each weighing in at 1,400 kilos, which are heavy numbers similar to executive sedans from previous generations. The result is passengers car gunning itself off as a sport hatch.

Thankfully, other two senses of electric productivity, things are starting to change. Starting too is the fact that Ford seems to have gotten this sensed. And that lucky break has come in a crucial time. The Ford Focus TDCI Sport is the quarter count. Issues heating, come down 500, as triple contenders for that particular market. This car has this secret with the opposition. Forcing another extension period. Well, at least the game isn't over yet, right?

MY DRIFT

Andre Fabian

Center of all attention

In the center of all the attention is the unopposed choice of engine. Based mounted by a common set and from that out by a turbo gives the TDCI a decent 136PS, but double the torque of 1.6-liter gasoline engine. What translates into real-to pull it to 320 Nm of torque and this is no joke.

Then they add the six-speed manual, with a short ratio straight out of your local amusement park. That makes the TDCI Sport gradually more like its bruiser gasoline-powered brethren and actually moving to drive. An engine with decent performance is always a nice thing to see mated to an able chassis.

It is coming to the final routine up this car that chokes me because to start my test drive set quickly. Practically brand new and out of the showroom, I've few mechanical complaints about the car.

If someone promised me today that the Focus TDCI will stay in shape and solid as it is now for the next 100,000 km, then whip out the checkbooks, ladies and gentlemen, this one's a keeper. But we all know cute never stay showroom shiny for ever, and diesel engines have a nasty habit of losing compression over time, especially with the quality of local diesel fuels.

So far, so good

All I can say about the Ford Focus TDCI Sport is so far, so good. Don't sell too much from it, and it performs impressively. Five-door hatches are practical creatures, first and foremost, however you want to dress them up. But did you really want to scream like the week's eggs before you get to the kitchen? Forgetting the Sport branding could actually help the market accept like cute is better.

If you think of this diesel Focus as a family, sensible, fuel-frugal runt of the litter, you'll be pleasantly surprised. But if you're really understood this car. The increased performance is surely the cherry on top of the sundae, the five updated decals that comes with your color mind, the guide chips in your pockets. You get the picture.

Neither Basics nor Ford makes diesel sexier, the Ford Focus TDCI is a car that makes the choice of a diesel passenger car more acceptable. The more vehicles of diesel break the mold that diesel is a fuel under-

FOCUS TDCI Sport

by for sensible, fuel-efficient transport, the greater the choices as consumers will be as the year forget. Imagine, the Europeans have been in the diesel game for a while. The Koreans have also joined the CRDI passenger car formula. Even local carmex with the diesel Rexton. Who's next? Your guess is as good as mine.

Chery rolls out 1 millionth unit

TODAY MARKS CHERY AUTOMOBile's release of its 1 millionth car off line, becoming the first privately owned Chinese car manufacturer to do so.

"This is unprecedented in China's auto industry since it only took Chery 91 months since rebooting its first car (Chery Fulwin) off line on Dec. 18, 1999," reported Tito Sapanger, distributorship network manager of Lovosa Motors Philippines, Chery's exclusive distributorship in the country.

He added that Chery's investments in research and development, cost control, marketing innovations and quality control as well as its global sales push have contributed to the company's rapid growth.

Currently, Chery is being distributed in 20 nations—the latest being the Philippines.

In fact, five models have already reached our shores: the QQ3, which is the most affordable in its class at P329,000 (1.1-liter model); the Cowin (at 1.8), a 2.0-liter, seven-seater multipurpose vehicle; Cowin sedan, which is powered by an 1.8G gasoline dual-fuel engine; Tiggo, a 1.6-liter sport utility vehicle; and the A5, a 1.6-liter crossover sedan.

The QQ3 city car, which is Chery's primary product is set to compete with Chevrolet Spark and/or the Picanto.

Available in 800-cc or 1.1-liter gasoline engine (paired to either manual or automated manual transmission), QQ3 won the prestigious 2.0 Power Iran Pro Cup Rally (1600 class) and the Chinese Rally Championship.

The compact car segment and is already being exported to the Middle East and Latin America.

"Indeed, we are very glad that we were able to construct our Chinese partners to bring a number of their vehicle models here. I believe many Filipinos will appreciate the price—especially that of the QQ3...as well as the quality workmanship of these vehicle models," Yuipaco said.

He said the company a dispute committed to providing an economical vary of transport for Filipinos and will try to convince their buyers that even Chinese vehicles are worth their money.

In fact, Yuipaco added that factory now has 11 dealerships nationwide and a targeting clients on Davao and Cebu.

If the flood here was much deeper than expected that the water threatens to "invade" the engine, let your engine "die" to drive another day.

What lies beneath

By Tessa R. Salazar

KEEP YOUR HEAD —AND your car—above water during this season of floods. Your pockets will thank you for it.

Should your rainy day drive be the same as your sunny day drive? Before your tires fall into that open manhole concealed by the flood, you may want to reconsider your driving habits. Your car may not show any sign damages at first, but repeated punishment will take its toll on your ride—and your pockets.

• **Half of the tires submerged.** Damage to the underside of your car is likely if half of the car's tires is submerged in water, where it may have also reached the wheel bearings, hubs, tire rods, and axle boots of the CV joints (for front-wheel drive). If there's small tear, and the water enters the axle boot, the CV joint starts to rust.

When lubrication is lost

Ferman Lee of Speedlab on Quezon Avenue explained that all these parts have rubber boots and are lubricated, but as long as these parts are lubricated, they are safe, but with frequent soaking and submerging in water, the lubrication is lost, and this could signal the start of damages.

• **Abandoning the machine.** If the car is abandoned in deep water, you must think it, if you still have time) disconnect the battery, also the electrical wires of Project 0 (Key-on Wire) fixtures. Camacho is an offroader and a 4x4 specialist.

When the water subsides, don't attempt to start the car, Lee adds. Tow it to the nearest service center for a checkup. If you start the car and the compartments—particularly the electrical ones—are still wet, then they could short out. That includes your all-important computer box.

When the water subsides, you can also remove the spark plugs and crank the engine to remove the water that has seeped into it (water will come out via the slots of the spark plugs), and then replace your car's Plastic oil, gear oil and transmission. Have the carpet and the interior cleaned, of course.

"Remember: protect your car's electrical components. Over those components get wet, the money outlays could get damaged. If you don't bother to check if the computer box is wet (and then you start the engine), it will burn," Lee stressed.

The rear of this engine? Somewhere in the 1982,000 range, depending on what kind of car. European cars' computer boxes can cost more.

• **Let it in, but don't suck it in.** If the flood rises are much deeper than expected that the water threatens to "invade" the engine, wave the white flag of surrender—and let your engine "die" to drive another day.

Then immediately do the advice stipulated in the preceding tip.

• "If the engine becomes submerged deep enough to reach the air intake, turn it off. If it takes in water while it's still revving, it by, distributor and the connecting rod would twist," Lee warns. Lee's Speedlab specializes in suspension, turbocharging, intercooler systems, engine diagnostics, modification and tuning.

Camacho says the pistons could be punctured, too, the rings (sliced vehicle owners should be especially wary of water seeping into the air intake.

Camacho adds that if you have to cross a street that has side-view mirror level floods, don't drive the car. Turn off the engine, detach the battery (if you can), then push or tow the vehicle out of the stream as fast as you can. Or, you stream that as long as the car is breakdown and the exposure of the engine in the water is brief, then you can still restart the car.

• **Have your brakes checked.** Always have your brakes checked after your car is submerged in water.

Be wary of these

• **Body nuts.** If floods reach any part of the car's body that no longer has factory waterproofing, well, expect rust to make itself comfortable there.

• **The air-conditioning** is not waterproof. One of the first things you should do before leaving the floodwaters (aside from needing your system for a few seconds) is to turn off your air-conditioning fans and all. If the water breaches the seal of the car's system, the units get damaged.

• **Hydraulic systems.** The second is ordering the clutching, "Yes, we say "Nasty!" when we uncover a particularly deep pothole (and there are plenty of these after the floods), but you can stop inevitably get the last "Ouch!" Lee explains that the faster the car passes through potholes and speed bumps, the bigger the potential damage to the car. "The don't just rate the suspension, but all the other parts linked to it," Lee says.

Damaged parts

Your suspension bushings, shocks, tire rod and rack and pin are just some of the parts that could be damaged. And if you hit the potholes jackpot—say an open manhole—then your expensive magic can get damaged (in street lingo, "to be called Sorsogong), as well as suffers a flat tire, too.

The age of the car and the speed in which you attack the pothole plays a major factor in the resulting damage (or non-damage) to the car, Lee says.

• **Just don't drive fast.** Remember that Sorsogong syndrome's chance to knock where on the BIR hypothetical, flees off the ramp and landed on a joggers on the service road below, killing a passenger? That tragedy happened over a single puddle of water. Now imagine yourself moving at high speeds over an entire flooded street. You don't just receive a lot of true looks from the pedestrians you drowned, you may also find yourself getting sent to chiropractic.

• **Avoid the unbreakable.** Saving floods, it's best to stick to routes that you know well, avoid taking shortcuts, especially if the shortcut you're taking is unbreakable and flooded. Remember, you never know what lies beneath those seemingly calm floodwaters. The almost 3,000 crushing pothole you can rely on your good judgment.

• **Electrical systems advice:** Avoid short circuit. If you really need to submerge your car in the flood, turn off not only all electrical system but also ignore and lights. In case the flood gets in contact with the alternator, there is less chance for short circuit.

Nissan chooses clean diesel

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sarella-Mendoza

THREE YEARS AGO, ON March 10, 2004 to be exact, this column reported that Nissan Motor Co. was planning to sell a hybrid vehicle in the United States by 2006 with hybrid technology licensed from Toyota Motor Co. In fact, the hybrid Altima was introduced in the United States only last January, drawing how much Nissan has behind Toyota and Honda, which began selling mass-market hybrid cars in 1997 and 1999, respectively.

But Nissan is catching up and planning to overtake it's rivals in environmental performance. On Dec. 15, 2006 in Tokyo, Nissan Chief Operating Officer Toshiyuki Shiga revealed the Nissan Green Program 2010, a four-year action plan whereby Nissan's efforts in advanced hybrid technology, fuel-cell automotive in alliance with its partner Renault S.A., would focus on improving technologies for conventional internal-combustion engines in the short term while developing new hybrid, biofuel, fuel-cell and electric vehicles in the longer term.

Cut

The Nissan Green Program 2010 aims to cut harmful greenhouse emissions by offering a diesel-powered hybrid vehicle among Nissan's own hybrid system by April 2010, electric vehicles in Japan in the early 2010s and a new hydrogen-powered fuel-cell vehicle in Japan and North America around the same time.

Two weeks ago, an update on the Green Program was given by Simon Ipenburg, Nissan corporate vice president for global communications, who came to Manila from Tokyo for the Nissan Diesel International Motor Show. In a one-on-one interview, Ipenburg said that Nissan is more bullish on diesel technology than on hybrid. "Right now, our diesel technology in the fuel is improving and the infrastructure is already established.

What's more, Nissan gets to share the clean diesel technology of Renault. Diesels is used for 50 percent of cars and 100 percent of light commercial vehicles in Europe. Specialty gasoline is used for the rest of the world as estimated 10-15 percent of vehicles produced are diesels.

Grow

Although diesels are not popular in the United States and Japan (except for heavy trucks), J.D. Power & Associates projects diesels to grow to about 9 percent of the US market by 2011 from 3.6 percent now. More automakers are turning to common-rail direct-injection diesel technology, an update, more powerful, more fuel-efficient and pollute less than diesel engines of the past. But while diesel engines run over 20 percent longer than those gasoline engines, the US Environmental Protection Agency says that, once purchased by engines running on high-sulfur diesel fuel creates smog and aggressive asthma and other respiratory problems.

Last Aug. 6, Nissan announced that it will launch in Japan next year a new clean diesel engine for use in the X-Trail, co-developed with Renault and using high-performance catalysts and advanced engine management technologies. By 2010, Nissan plans to start a broader diesel strategy in the United States by launching a diesel Maxima sedan for sales that will comply with emissions standards in all 50 states and provide improved fuel economy (up to 30 percent better than the standard gasoline version) and lower carbon dioxide emissions. Nissan also will sell new diesel vehicles in Japan and China by 2010.

Hybrids

But the Nissan Green Program 2010 is not placing all its chips on one member, Samson said, simply because consumers haven't chosen yet the technology they want. "Hybrids captured the headlines but not the heart of the consumer," he said, saying that results that stopped projecting the hybrid's cost-effectiveness. Samson is saying that the fuel savings from hybrids don't offset the cost since $3,000 more than similar gasoline-only vehicles, are not convincing enough for most customers. Even when, Nissan is working on cycles in hybrid.

Nissan will accelerate the development of all future technologies at the same time, means that gasoline and diesel engines will be used with powertrain until 2020. One such project is a 3.0-liter gasoline engine that can run 100 kilometers on less than 6 liters of fuel, for which Nissan is targeting 2018 as the release date in Japan.

New

Nissan has formed a joint venture with NEC of Japan to develop a new lithium ion battery that will nearly double the acceleration performance of vehicles running on fuel cells, electricity or hybrid engines. The advanced battery and other components developed by Nissan may be used in Nissan's fuel-cell concept and compact cars the soon on the market now.

Bottom line, despite its battery, Nissan's emphasis on advantage of sharing the cost and risks of developing future technologies with its partners Renault. Meanwhile, one in two every 20 persons will be born outside their gasoline engines, the US Environmental Protection Agency says that once purchased by engines running on high-sulfur diesel fuel creates smog and aggressive

NEXT year, the X-Trail will have a clean diesel engine.

Isuzu shows off diesel supremacy

ISUZU PHILIPPINES CORP. has shown more its support to the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (CAMPI) by participating in the organization's first ever motor show. The Group debuted its Philippine international Motor Show was held last Aug. 9-12 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City and IPC was among the major automotive manufacturers that displayed their vehicles and other products at the event.

Isuzu showed off a total of nine products on their booth, with a D4D-powered Sedan with Bluetooth directly from injection, being in the centerpiece. The MW is a best-selling and highly acclaimed light-duty truck. With D4D, it incorporated natural gas propulsion, it just got even better. The MW C240, currently only available in Japan, is an ideal example of Isuzu's commitment to developing environment-friendly vehicles using alternative energy sources or hybrid systems to reduce emissions.

CNG-powered engines produce less harmful nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. They also give off virtually no particulate matter. CNG, whose main constituent gas is methane, is available from sources of natural gas that exist in many places around the world. Philippine reserves, coupled with supply is not controversial in the Middle East, and its reserves are much larger than those of petroleum.

With the MW D240 truck, Isuzu reminded motor show visitors that it is not just leading the industry in diesel technology but also caring for the environment.

Also showcased

Also displayed on Alterra 4x4 A/T is D-Max 4x2 LS A/T, a D-MAX 4x2 LT M/T, a Crosswind XUV 4x2 "i" and a Crosswind Sportivo 4/T. All of these models are clean and friendly to the environment with the Alterra as Euro-2 compliant while the D-Max and the Crosswind as Euro-2 compliant.

The 2007 Alterra 4x4 A/T has new projector-type headlamps, new chrome slit-hole radiator grille, fog lamps, new circular fog lamps and new rear chrome license plate garnish. Inside, the Alterra boasts a new Optitron instrument panel that now displays important data to a motorist that does not strain the eyes. The new

Isuzu also displayed its MW Inline4 that Courage with a smooth, quiet, front-facing mining automatic transmission and side entrances. The Inline4 has one accommodates 12 passengers comfortably, and is powered by the proven Isuzu 4JA1 diesel engine.

Last but not the least, Isuzu displayed its Powertrain engines for automotive, marine and industrial applications—powerful, reliable, fuel-efficient and environment-friendly engines running in the Clean Air Act Law.

For those looking to buy a new vehicle, Isuzu offered the D-Max and the Alterra for actual test drives outside the exhibit hall.

Other vehicles on display

The other exhibits on display were the Isuzu Passenger line and the 2008 Stratagic line. The NQR 70 is a comfortable vehicle that seats a total of 17 passengers. Its proven 2.9-liter in-line four-cylinder, water-cooled DHV 4JB1 diesel engine produces 79 horsepower and 17.6 kgm of torque. The 4JB1 is equipped with a direct injection diesel engine under its hood. It is the same six-hole grille design of the LT.

The Crosswind XTI 4WT has a restyled front grille and new-design 15-inch aluminum wheels. At the sides, the Crosswind XTI has anti-blind side lens equipped in retractable chrome housing and with LED turn lights. The XTI cabin features a high-end Clarion CZ-MP3 player with an integrated USB port.

The Crosswind Sportivo A/T, for its part, has a chrome sides garnish, front and rear skirts, roof spoiler, fog lamps and new rear chrome license plate garnish. Inside, the Sforza boasts a new Optitron instrument panel that now displays important data to a motorist that does not strain the eyes. The new

Motorists urged to verify CTPL accreditation of insurance firms

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF insurance policies were rejected by the Land Transportation Office. These policies were determined to be issued by insurance companies not accredited by the Insurance Commission to serve duplicates of previously issued Certificates of Cover (COC) for Compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL).

LTO Chief Reynaldo Berroya said it was an ill-fated week for insurance companies that were issuing operating without proper accreditation from the IC and which were not connected to the LTO IT system. Unscrupulous insurance companies was another fear with the LTO's new system for the verification of the COCs and respective CTPL and which is called the COC Verification Facility (COCVF), they say no longer

BERROYA

continue with their fraudulent practices where insurance is concerned.

Not accepted

The LTO system did not bog down, the system simply did not accept policies from non-IC-accredited insurance companies or policies which were not uploaded in the LTO system online and real time.

Berroya noted that the main cause of proliferation of fake COCs for the CTPL has been made public with the discovery that some of the insurance agents are not uploading their sales to the authentication facility as claimed before. Insurance agents

LTO rejects thousands of COCs issued by nonaccredited insurance firms

also deliberately issue duplicate insurance policies to different motor vehicle owners.

Rejected

The LTO chief also added that the rejection of the thousands of policies by the LTO system this past week only proves that the COCVF is a very effective measure in ensuring that only COCs issued by IC accredited insurance companies connected to the LTO IT system will be accepted and processed by the LTO.

Berroya further appealed to motorists who have their motor vehicles registered to verify first with the LTO if the insurance company of choice is accredited by the IC and if the company is also linked up with the LTO real time and online. This way, unnecessary inconveniences will be avoided and a speedy registration process would be assisted.

Reform insurance industry

Berroya has been instrumental in what is considered to be a milestone in the plan to reform the CTPL insurance industry. He said the reforms geared at implementing the new system is not in easy task, especially now that insurance capitalization with dubious intent are finding ways to penetrate the government as it used DOTC-LTO 2007-28 and so now to the old system.

Berroya firmly believes that the LTOCVF supports the government's reform program in preserving public and promoting fair practices in the insurance industry and at the same time recover P250 million in lost taxes yearly.

THE 3.0-LITER V6 Accord may be conservatively designed but with its right mix of power, excellent steering feel and overall handling, this car is near perfect.

Accord
a confidence-building car

By Charles E. Bolano

THE 2007 HONDA ACcord may look a bit conservative when placed side by side its smaller cousin, the Civic (first boasts an aspanol design and a sporty profile).

But what it may lack in flair, the Accord makes up by what it can do on the road.

Armed with a 3-litre, 220 horsepower, V6 engine (a 2.4-litre, 160 horsepower engine is also available), the 2007 Accord makes sure her choice, especially if you're going out of town.

Case in point, the country's provincial highways are basically two-lane roads that promise to test any driver's overtaking skills.

Since considerable sections of these highways are filled with cargo trucks, bicycles, and of course "tuligligs" (non-motorized trailers pulled by a hand tractor) that drive in convoys, albeit at a snail's pace, they are overtaking opportunity and you could likely end up lagging behind one of these slowpokes, further delaying your driving timetable.

Fast and agile response

Now, what you need is a vehicle that responds a fast and agile response when you step on the accelerator. Fortunately, this writer was driving a 3.0 V6 Accord in going to Bangantan a couple of weeks ago.

The Accord did not disappoint, even at considerable that car could bring its over 1,300-kg body weight to 100 kph in just 7 seconds.

Also worth taking notice of is the car's safety mechanisms. The Accord has speed sensors at each wheel that sends signals to the antilock braking system (ABS) control unit, which in turn independently modulates the brake fluid pressure to each front wheel and the rear wheels in tandem.

This system enhances the driver's ability to maintain steering control during hard stops on all types of surfaces.

While the ABS function is particularly effective on smooth or level roads, the wheels on one side of the vehicle have significantly less traction than those on the other side, the driver needs to relax the vehicle's brake input controls the vehicle even when the steering wheel is abruptly turned.

Now, while these safety innovations work for safer around and are barely noticeable, the result is an exhilarating, confidence-building drive (considering this writer almost overtakes one, much more in convoy of trucks).

LIFESTYLE
Editor Cielo Bamal-Formoso Chief of Correspondents Pats Poizer

Illac Diaz wins the first DHL Young Entrepreneurs for Sustainability Awards for his Pier One Seamen's Dormitory project

Yes to change

Text and photos by Bianca Cuenca
ZEST Correspondent

"I WANT TO MAKE A scratch on heaven," said Illac Diaz, winner of the first DHL Young Entrepreneurs for Sustainability (YES) Awards. "By following my dream, I was able to make money and help people at the same time. This, for me, is a perfect job."

Diaz, one of the three finalists of the YES awards, won the top prize for his project, the Pier One Seamen's Dormitory. The dormitory

PHOTO

Christine Jacob's Life Diet

Food for the Body

The way we eat plays an important role on how we lead our lives. The food and drinks that we consume serve as fuel for our body and soul that make us fulfill our daily activities as we make the most out of life.

Balanced Diet

That's why the Coca-Cola Company provides products that enable us to live life to the fullest. It advocates a lifestyle of reverberating a balanced diet paired with physical activity for us to become healthy and happy.

Creating this balance lets us enjoy the food and drinks that we love. It lets us have some carbs, some protein, some greens, some fruits, and even for our most-loved softdrinks.

TV Personality, swimmer, and mom Christine Jacob defines a balanced diet by saying "having a balanced diet means that there is space for all food and drinks, depending on what I do. It is attuning what I eat with my lifestyle". She believes that maintaining a balanced diet can be achieved by simply enjoying what you eat or drink, because in doing so, you end up feeling better and happier about yourself.

Celebrate Happiness

So celebrate wellness and happiness by including your favorite Coca-Cola softdrink in your balanced diet. The Coca-Cola Company encourages you to have a life enjoying the things that make you happy.

"HAPPINESS IS ALL ABOUT BALANCE.
I balance work and motherhood,
time for family and time for me.
I also balance my intake everyday.
There's a place for all food and drinks,
in a balanced diet,
including the drinks that make me happy!"

Christine Jacob
TV Personality, Champion Swimmer, Yoga and Pure Raw Mom

A balanced life is a flourishing Life

The Coca-Cola Company

CARMELO Junio

Award-winning science fiction, Pinoy-style

Carmelo Junio's 'Laminated Woman' grabs a slot in the first-ever Animax Awards

By Nika Mark M. Sablan
Life Correspondent

YOUTH CHANNEL ANIMAX RECENTLY unveiled the winners of the Animax Awards, the channel's inaugural Pan-Asia animation scriptwriting competition. One of the winners is a Filipino!

The winning entry comes from the Philippines, called "Laminated Woman," is by Carmelo Junio. Its story is set in a harsh desert planet where the inhabitants have perfected Lamination...a system of imprisonment without walls which ensures that prisoners remain productive members of society. The system has made both jails and the death penalty unnecessary.

Junio's story is also about Dr. John "Jack" Grimaldi, who works as he can forget about a personal tragedy. Jack doesn't have any desire to get involved with the planet's current politics, but everything changes when he meets a "Lamie" or laminated person.

"Aside from that nudge in the right direction [from the contest], the inspiration came from various sources," says Junio of his story's beginnings. "The science fiction notion of having people laminated was inspired mainly by Gavin Yatzer, "The Man in the Iron Mask," the animated of "Fullmetal Alchemist," an episode of "Dexter's Laboratory" where Dexter literally laminated himself (like an ID), memories of an old '60s or '70s tattoo, "Simply Irresistible" and "Blade Runner."

The story theme, on the other hand (summarized by the tagline "Sometimes you don't need words"), was inspired by the writer's own difficulty in talking to people and his aversion to cell phones.

"I personally don't own a cell phone," says Junio.

Writing the entry took Junio a little under a month, although the idea was something that had been floating in his head for several years.

"A love story between people who have trouble communicating," is how he puts it. "The story was in fact born out of a much larger cycle, a novel about Laminated People, which I had been too lazy or too terrified to write down, fearing the impossibility of developing a totally brand new idea within the context period. I reduced the laminated people to a single laminated woman."

Grand finals

Junio, along with four other entries (South East Asia/Malaysia's "Guardian Invader" by Alvin Lim, India's "Starfire Station" by Arunlal K., Prakash, Hong Kong's "Serial Burglary" by Kong Hoang Chung, and Taiwan's "The Final Dream March" by Yu Hong Ming), won US$2,000 for his efforts. These five entries will move on to the grand finals in Tokyo, Japan, in September 2007.

They will compete against the eight Korean and six Japanese winners that came from the respective Korean and Japanese versions of the competition. Not only will the grand prize winner win a cash prize of two million yen, the winning script will also be animated by a top Japanese animation studio, A-1 Pictures of Aniplex, and eventually broadcast across Asia on Animax.

Animax is also getting viewers the chance to support their favorite entry among the 11 finalists through a web poll launched last Aug. 7. The synopses of the 11 entries will be posted online at www.animax-awards.com and viewers will have until Sept. 3 to vote for their favorite script.

Visit www.animaxawards.com for more info and win one of 30 Animax prize packs up for grabs (each containing a Gundam figure and Animax goodies) just by voting for your favourite entry in the Web Poll!

Junio says that if his entry wins, "It could represent a step forward, no matter how small, toward promoting science fiction in a country better known for fantasies about mythical monsters that go bump in the night."

E-mail the author at nimsmarksablan@yahoo.com

TALES OF THE CITY

Tour guide reveals Manila's best-kept secrets

By Nika Mark M. Sablan
Life Correspondent

CARLOS CELDRAN IS probably best known to you as your tour guide in heavy Tagalog, nobility and subtitler. He is responsible for many an ex-expat when it comes to the best Intramuros destinations, most notably eating hangouts and must hit-dining eateries in the country. And while he must leave already suggested a few before leaving Metro Manila, it is now time for 24/7 readers to be filled in on refreshing new places and activities.

Best way to spend a Saturday afternoon: At the National Museum of the Philippines (The Museum of the Filipino People), located at Agrifina Circle in Luneta Park

"It is definitely not the crappy, cobwebbed hall of (unidentified names) that you were accustomed to on your high school field trips of yore," Carlos says about the refurbished museum.

The refurbishing had been done by JP Multicon and Associates and Lor Cabeo & Associates with assistance from the Canada Israel Lord Cultural Resources Planning Management. It is a sparkling clean, well-run and well-curated institution. Major plus is the air-conditioning, which truly makes culture appreciation even more enjoyable.

Carlos also suggests taking a walk through Luneta Park up to the Quirino Grandstand for a drink while gazing at the sunset at Golden Horizon Restaurant.

Best little hostel and bookstore: Wine Door at Friendly's Guest House (http://www.friendlyguesthouse.com; (917)3333103; skype@friendlyguesthouse) and

According to Carlos, what makes Deepie Garcia's Friendly's Guest House a great destination, apart from having the most reasonably priced accommodations in downtown Manila, is its weekend Wine Door. It is thrown every early Saturday evening by Deepie herself, complete with wine and the best conversations. From a budget judge of individuals composed of backpackers, foreign NGO volunteers, journalists, American Peace Corps on leave and artsy locals.

"A great place to swoon up your party pants before walking

CARLOS Celdran

out to enjoy the Malate night downtown," says Carlos. "The perfect address for anyone who wants to be in the heart of downtown without breaking the bank."

Accommodations start at P500 a night and P600 for one day, with private rooms and bath. It also has free Wi-Fi, which is a great plus.

Best way to spend an artsy afternoon in Pasay: At the Galleria Duemila (218 Loring Street, 1300 Pasay City; 8219990/833 9833; http://www.galleriaduemila.com) and Allure Artfilms

For the culture vultures, nothing beats the National Museum, Duemila and Avellana galleries, and Solidaridad bookshop

Art Gallery (House A-19, 2686 Dr. Harrison St., Pasay City; 8558057).

"Located only blocks away from each another, these two galleries have deliciously opposed off-the-cuss and culture questions of an area more known for its cooperated airports, crumbling infrastructure and spurious colonies," Carlos says. "Both are located inside charming mid-20th century Manila houses, both have an extensive list of amazing local—and sometimes foreign—artists, and both are a destination in itself. Just jogging between these two places can fill up an entire afternoon."

But a full on artsy afternoon, one can then head to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the CCP Museum, and, while you're in the area, the Coconut Palace.

Best bookstore: The Filipiniana Bookstore by Bookmark (2306-A Pablo Ocampo Sr. Ave., Makati City, between Metropolitan Ave. and Zobel Roxas; 8938861 to 63), Solidaridad (531 Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila) and Tamarindo (149 of the Malate Hardware Building, Gen. Luna Street, Intramuros, beside Victoria Hotel)

Carlos suggests going to The Filipiniana Bookstore for all guidebooks on the Philippines, from photo albums of Old Manila and Cebu to regular to biographies of historical icons like Imelda Marcos and Jose Rizal, from children's books and postcards to cookbooks and other limited edition publications. "And just for it all, a Pinoy does not always come easy," Carlos says. "Either that or it's so cheap that it feels like it."

Another bookstore Carlos likes is Solidaridad (owned and operated by National Artist for Literature F. Sionil Jose)'s museum of its hard-to-find books. It specializes in Filipiniana, Philippine International Fiction, Poetry, subjects like Philosophy, Sociology and Political Theory. It has back issues of the New Yorker. "It is really an oasis of intelligence and goodness in this fast-declining neighborhood," Carlos says. "And as one of the last street level music and pop establishments on the Padre Faura/Adriatico Street area, it is imperative that you reach out more and support this little treasure trove of culture and heritage despite the rather steep costs of some of their books."

There is also Tradewinds Bookstore which according to Carlos specializes in old Philippine explorers, Philippine fiction and books on Philippine culture, Jose Rizal, The Filipino Bookstore, the prices here are very reasonable. "The Silahis (handicraft) emporium and Galleria de las Islas Gallery beside Padre Faura winds are also worth a browse."

Best Japanese Musical: Elein Restaurant (Ma. Soledad Building, 878 San Andres St. corner MH del Pilar St., Malate, Manila; 5235716)

High-tech at high altitudes

MADE OF THE SAME STRONG material that ensures a sky diver's safe landing, Samsonite's new bags collection invokes a spirit of family, intrepid adventure.

Samsonite's product development looked in the sky for inspiration and saw parachutes as the basis for Xeqo's lightweight but resilient design. This line of bag-pape can be counted on to expand its capabilities easily and conveniently whenever travelers needs.

With durable nylon polyester mounted on a collapsible spring steel frame, Xeqo readily transforms to adapt to various carry-on and overhead compartment regulations, without compromising precious luggage. There are also markers on the external webbing to indicate the bag's current width.

The innovative wheel handle system makes it easier because next to extra bags placed on top of Xeqo will remain steady. The cord's hook near the handle can also be used to hang smaller bags or pressed suits.

Xeqo likewise features a convertible strap to go from hand carry to shoulder bag. The seams are heat-welded for maximum water resistance.

Samsonite Xeqo is available in upright, 4-piece travel bag, and three easy-carry pack models in black and club red colors. The new collection is available at Samsonite stores in Podium and RobinsStore, the Travel Club Boutiques, Duty Free Philippines, and at leading department stores nationwide.

From girl to woman

EVERY WOMAN HAS A SWEET MEMORY of choosing her first bra. That special trip to the store's lingerie section marks a girl's right of passage into adulthood, along with getting her first period and experiencing a myriad of changes in her body.

Even choosing clothes is now a little more complicated. Unlike before when blouses and tight shirts would be worn without a thought, there is a need to be more supportive and think about, "Is my bra a woman's first and swelling, but sometimes a little scary. So what's a girl to do?

Maidenform knows exactly what a girl wants and needs. Its new line offers a variety of styles that are fun and pretty without sacrificing comfort. Girls are indeed spoiled for a choice and all must-haves when choosing a bra flow on the wrapping.

Convertible Bra Bra. The bra and bustline bra can be worn in four ways—halter, crisscross, demi and strapless. No bling and flower frills here. Just a feminine spaghetti strapped blouse and sporty tank shirts, which would now be worn with more confidence. Available in the impossible-to-find tan tone. What's more, its two-way stretch foam cups shapes and smooths, giving it that seamless look which is perfect for tight-fitting tees.

One Fabulous Fit Underwire Bra Bra. The brand's best-selling ladies' line is now available for women in two-wear stretch foam cups and an underwire for maximum support. Wearing underwire bras makes some getting used to, but once girls get the hang of it, they'll never go without it. It offers maximum support and enhances one's posture, and it creates a nice silhouette for light and thin fabrics.

One Fabulous Fit Molded Tee Bra. This smoothest wire bra features soft cups and seamless bonded tissue, which is perfect for under-t-shirts and tight tees. Caught in the morning rush while preparing for school? This bra is basic and straightforward. It's comfy too with its stretchy and adjustable straps.

One Fabulous Fit Special Sheer Tee Bra. The underwire bra is soft and comfortable. But a girl almost forgets she's wearing this new convergence called bra. It's the perfect bra for wearing sheer tops and tees. Its seamless cups prevent from a girl's underside to a regular bra.

Maidenform for Girls is offered in soft pastels as well as basic black and body beige, in solid colors and prints that range from floral to tie-dye to fun stripes. It is exclusively distributed by Suman Marketing Corporation and is available in all leading department stores nationwide.

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Tell us about yourself and your love for sports. Send writing samples along with your resumé to Ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Let the games begin.

Yes to change

From page C1

business was the result of his thesis in the Asian Institute of Management. It provides workers with structured financing, part-time jobs and seminars on safe sex and STD prevention.

"A lot of OFWs in the past were subject to PDI a day," Dina noted. "And when they're out of work, they resort to picking up temporary domestic while they job-hunt. Instead of letting them do this, we cut up a loan denominated for them to avail of."

He added, "We also put them up in one area and grouped them by profession, so it would be easier for the agencies to find them and give them work."

Dina's business hatred two other ventures for the poor. The other finalists were Herpet Briones, president of Power Mongrel Foundation Incorporated, which provides supplementary educational programs to low-performance public schools; and Emerson Atanacio, who restored the Dual Training System Mobility program offered to less privileged families and out-of-school youth.

Briones, whose program primarily targets indigent children, said, "We aim to build confidence in people's lives by teaching them practical assistance training techniques to help them process information."

Atanacio, on the other hand, partnered with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in order to help out-of-school youth resume their education.

According to DKL country manager Larry Llamazon, the company wanted to promote social responsibility through three ways: one, by helping manage districts; two, by supporting house construction with various projects; and lastly, by creating numbers for social change. Llamazon cited DKL's partnership with Conrad Ballinga as one of the company's key projects.

It was from those reasons that Dina was able to win the top prize, which included a chance to represent the Philippines in the regional arm of the competition to be held in Singapore.

"I want to direct behind economic say that is self-sufficient and empowered," Dina said. "If the person system is not working (to eradicate poverty), then maybe it's time to find a new way."

He added, "Nowadays, one most important resource is being left out: the young people who want to make a change. Young people can change the world. Sometimes, establishments don't work. It's up to us to find every to do what we want."

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FINALISTS receiving framed photos of themselves at work

The little jeep . . .

From page C1

Though Subaru has a limited production of 15 units per month, there are already several cities that have ordered 50 units or more.

Keeping people secure

"We have an intention of phasing out carbody in the business," said Fechter. "That is just to keep people secure and open their minds that there are alternative engines...we're not talking about hydro fuel engines—in the market that can clean the environment. . . so that people will wean up with clean to convert their diesel engines to cleaner engines, and maybe they can use lighter materials instead of heavy gauge steel. They can use fiberglass.

"There's really no difference between this and the usual purposes. All you have to do is change the motor, put batteries in (them)."

Subaru designs the purposes and then has them manufactured in China for economical reasons. For 8 purpose manufacturers are targeted by Subaru, and local government support the new purpose, then the purposes may be produced here, cost-efficient even for the local economy and improve competition. Prices will decrease, employment will increase, technology will improve and people can all benefit the again. There's so much more to the Electric Jeep story but just close up.

The little jeep that could

The environment-friendly Electric Jeepney may yet become the new king of the road

THY STANDING AT THE CORner of Gil Puyat and Makati Avenue during rush hour and just observe. Thousands of commuters from all sides of the intersection go through the same toxic routine every single day. Aside from the traffic that everyone has to contend with, there is also the noise from car horns, cranky diesel engines and fumes, more apparent to jeepney passengers and drivers who do not have the luxury of air-conditioning. Packed like sardines in rickety reconditioned steel containers, they stop and go, stop and go, stop and go until they finally reach their destination late, sweaty and covered in soot.

It's a cardiac-arresting cocktail of high noise, low pay and minimum personal mobility conditions.

Now imagine the jeepney as a purely electric machine that belches nothing, makes no noise, has a high headroom, comfortable seating and large windows. You may even pass the miles around and enjoy sing-alongs while on your way to work. And you're not cramped because, though the maximum seating is up to six or eight, the driver regulation is to a comfortable five.

The P7 you pay him goes a long way because he's not filling up his tank every two hours with ridiculously expensive fuel he can hardly afford. He also works less hours, gets a larger take-home pay, is in much better spirits and will live longer from the clean air he breathes.

Sounds like a silly dream? Not anymore. With the help of three headstrong environmentally conscious organizations and a pioneering mayor, the scenario has been made possible. Welcome the Electric Jeepney!

The new jeepney will have its inaugural run in Makati. Solar Electric Co. (Solarec), Greenpeace and Green Renewable Independent Power Producer (Greipp) are all partners in the Climate Friendly Cities Project, and Mayor Jejomar Binay is their first and very enthusiastic customer.

Solarec, headed by Danish Puckett, designed the E-Jeepney to be fully electricity-driven, noiseless, light, sturdy, efficient and economical.

"It's very easy to drive," said Puckett. "Because it's lighter, the jeepney drivers who are so used to the heavy diesel engines will feel a little weird at first, but it only takes a short while to get used to it."

Considering it has no gas tank (just a battery compartment) the E-Jeepney was purely an engineering marvel. Resembling in a much quieter and friendlier way, "diesel-powered jeepneys actually waste more fuel while idling," Puckett said. "In the case of the Electric Jeepney, when the driver steps on the brake, the engine really stops. It doesn't idle."

Smoother ride

Without factoring in the driver's skills, discipline and temperament, the E-Jeepney results in a much smoother ride with its automatic transmission.

"It's a glorified golf cart," said Puckett. "Have you ridden a golf cart before? It's mine!"

Danish Puckett is an idealist. He has been in the business of renewable energy for three decades now, having started when nobody believed it was feasible. He believes in renewable energy. Now that the world is aware of global warming's adverse effects on the environment, he beams with pride at the fact that he has been right to advocate pollution-free, renewable energy all along.

"I've travelled all over so I know what's going on. I've seen all the pollution—China, United States, Asian countries ... lots of Asian countries. It's scary especially in our case here."

The Electric Jeepney is nothing new. The technology has been around for decades, as can be seen in China and around the world. Nepal uses electric vehicles in their cities. Bangkok has electric "tuk-tuks." There have been several attempts by other companies to sell the technology to jeepney operators, but they were either too expensive or the manufacturers were unable to provide warranties and service.

The Solarec E-Jeepney will have a targeted retail price of P900,000 with a one-year warranty on the engine and a two-year guarantee on the battery. There is an option for a solar-paneled roof that will help recharge the battery; it costs an additional P150,000. Solarec will service the units and provide spare parts and accessories.

"The amount will not succeed without the service aspect," Puckett said. "We are here for the long-term sustainability of the project so we will provide the necessary services."

The E-Jeepney can run 120 kilometers on a single charge. If the driver crawls at an average speed of 40 km/h nonstop, that translates to a three-hour overking day that the engine can exceed his hours because the battery is not used up...it doesn't idle. The E-Jeepneys can be parked for eight hours in Solarec's centrally located charging stations for a mere P150 per charge.

At the moment, there are 400,000 conventional jeepneys around the Metro.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Study breaks it down: How to make hit films

NEW YORK—WHAT MAKES movie magic? A psychology professor has done a statistical study to outsmart what makes critical darlings or box-office hits.

Films that earn awards and praise from reviewers tend to be R-rated and based on a true story or a prize-winning play or novel, says psychology professor Dean Simonton at the University of California, Davis.

Big-budget blockbusters—comedies, musical, sequels or remakes—do not ordinarily draw such kudos, Simonton found. Neither do summer releases, PG-13 movies, movies that open on thousands of screens or ones that have unanimous box office numbers in their first weekend.

Very different

"I had hoped that there was a difference between blockbuster and films that can be considered prestigious or serious," said Simonton, who presented his findings last week in the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in San Francisco. "It was gratifying to find out they're very, very different."

Simonton says he is not a movie buff—"I'm a consumer like everyone else"—but in his longtime studies of genius, creativity and leadership, he started compiling data about the collaborative process of filmmaking in 1999.

"Rembrandt Filmmaker" is a prime example of what Simonton discovered. It was rated 9, just shy of 10 percent approval rating on the Metacritic.com website and it came out at the height of passenger-jet-jet time in December 2000. It had a top-notch creative team, including director Ang Lee and screenwriters Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana, working from a short story by Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Proulx. The film cost $14 million to make and grossed nearly $178 million worldwide. Nominated for eight Oscars, it won three.

Exceptions

There are exceptions, like Bill Simonton's "Knocked Up." It is very much an R-rated comedy that's gotten 91 percent positive reviews on Metacritic and it came out in June. Judd Apatow, who enjoys a cult following, wrote and directed it. The film cost an estimated $33 million and so far has grossed $149 million worldwide. It is probably not going to win any Oscars, but who knows?

All those things are just statistical relationships—there are always exceptions to every finding you have," Simonton said. "You'll have a film that really shouldn't have success but they have something quirky going for them."

He added, "In a consequence, Hollywood falls back on sequels and remakes. Even though, just to woo them before, you know, only a few remakes have succeeded."

Stephen Whitty, chairman of the New York Film Critics Circle, pointed out one of the rare recent films that the group and the moviegoing masses have united on: "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," a big-budget sequel and a huge box-office hit.

Often, the group prides itself on singling out films that are not obvious Oscar bait, like "Bridesmaids" and "Eat Pray Love."

Groucho

At awards expert Tom Oliver, Jr. Ivey suspected: "Critics are supposed to be guiding American moviegoers. This study proves they're failing their core constituency."

Critics are common types who want to prove how smart they are ... professional grouches who think a critic's job is to be critical," said Oliver, columnist for Hollywood.com website. "Unfortunately genre critics tend to be social misfits [who] lunch sentiments of movies because they created them of a loving, nurturing world to which they do not belong."

Agreed screenwriter-director Jerry Zucker, who in 2002 The Oscar Best Picture was Ron Howard's "A Beautiful Mind" (based on a prize-winning book about a true story) but several critics' groups gave their top honors to David Lynch's dreamlike "Mulholland Drive."

"Even though," O'Neil pointed out, "David Lynch said he had no idea what it was about." AP

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GALLERIA

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY + THX	6 RUSH HOUR 3
2 SIGNOS	7 A LOVE STORY
3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	8 Indefinite
4 HAIRSPRAY	9 SURF'S UP
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY	10 RISE

ENRIITA

1 A LOVE STORY	
2 SIGNOS	5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	6 RUSH HOUR 3
4 HAIRSPRAY	7 RISE

METRO EAST

1 HAIRSPRAY	5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	6 RISE
3 A LOVE STORY	7 SURF'S UP
4 RUSH HOUR 3	8 SIGNOS

MOVALICHES

1 A LOVE STORY	4 SURF'S UP
2 SIGNOS	5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	6 RUSH HOUR

PIONEER

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY	3 HAIRSPRAY
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	4 A LOVE STORY

STA. ROSA

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

LIPA

1 A LOVE STORY
2 SURF'S UP
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 LICENSE to WED

DASMARINAS

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 THE CONDEMNED
5 BLIND DATING

IMUS

1 A LOVE STORY
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
5 SINKING of JAPAN
6 RUSH HOUR 3

ANGELES

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

TARLAC

1 A LOVE STORY
2 SURF'S UP
3 BORDERTOWN

STARMILLS

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 A LOVE STORY	5 THREE
3 RUSH HOUR 3	6 SINKING OF JAPAN

BACOLOD

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 SURF'S UP / BORDERTOWN
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 RESERVE

ILOILO

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 SURF'S UP
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 BLIND DATING

ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 24 (9:00AM) -

- SURF'S UP Mini Drive
- Dance Showdown
- Meet & Greet / Photo Op with Cody
- Surfing Class w/ Boardwalk
- Games and Raffle
- Robinsons Bacoloc Mall Activity Area

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ComicRelief

DI

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN — BY JOEL ABRERA

BABY BLUES — BY JERRI SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY NIN JUNIOR

MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVEWHISTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGUO

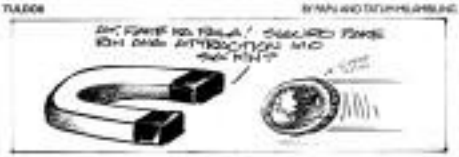
AYONG AND WOOSY — BY LYNN GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PANALUNA

EKO NACHINE — BY MARK ABRERA

HYERODOGHOG — BY JOHNETTE TEJIDO

TULDOK — BY RAPA AND TATUNKUMANGLANG



BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Concepts Sudoku — by Dave Green

	8	1				6	7	
2			3		7			9
9			1					4
7			9					8
	3	5				4	9	
4			5					6
5			8					7
1			6		9			3
	9	7				8	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	9	2	3	8	7	6	5	1
8	3	1	5	6	2	7	4	9
7	5	6	4	9	1	3	8	2
9	1	3	7	5	4	2	6	8
5	4	8	6	2	3	1	9	7
6	2	7	9	1	8	5	3	4
2	8	9	1	3	5	4	7	6
1	7	5	8	4	6	9	2	3
3	6	4	2	7	9	8	1	5

One reason that celebrity marriages fail

VINA MORALES "salvaging" to have.

By Inquirer and Inquirer.net Entertainment Staff

TAKE IT FROM SOMEONE who's been there.

In Annotated Pera dispatch from New York quotes Eliza Taube, whose split from Tom Thomas caused a subdued frenzy, as saying that being half of a celebrity couple can be hard on the ego.

"It's unfair when one person's career is taking off and the other is really suffering," the 26-year-old tells ABC's "Showbiz" in an interview that aired last Sunday.

"It's not that they're jealous of each other; it's that the person you share your life with isn't in the mood to support," Taube says. "You want to have a pity party for yourself, but they're off to the Golden Globes and you don't want to go because everyone will think you are jealous."

Taube and Thomas were married in 1998. She filed for divorce in 2004. The couple have two children.

RUSHES

"It's not that they're jealous of each other; it's that the person you share your life with isn't in the mood to support," Taube says.

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Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last week's main show biz gabfests:

LUCY'S Mo Rocca.

• Lucy Torres-Gomez on the alleged squabble between Senators Richard Gomez and Gene Mercado: "I really don't think there's an issue. I think it's more of people wanting there to be an issue. If they really sit down and talk about what the issue is, there won't be an issue to talk about. (Get it.)

• Ara Mina on rumors she had caused a rift between Manny Pacquiao and his wife Jinkee:

"Kahit papaano, wala bother sila. Kung ano even 'pun sputking matinsin sa tuya."

• Dennis Magkiyan on the love affairs of sister Nina Morales: "Kung nasa sipot manapa, wala na man. Kasing magagawa ng pamilya. Susuportahan namin siya." (Nonetheless going on there?)

• Mrs. Morales confirming her relationship with businessman Carlos Lee: "Hindi ko kaya 'yan. Isa lang ... mga interview ... sho [on] 'The Buzz' ... Anong inaagit Ari? Tell them about the pasalubong [of his countryman] Carlos Lee, okay. Mamaya-pasa-pong: annulment]. Nasa lawyer na."

• Asked if Carlos loves her, and if she loves him: "Sabay-sa."

• Zsa-Zsa Padilla on rumors that daughter Kayla and her boyfriend Dingdong Dantes had broken up: "I told her, 'Ba, have to be very strong. Kung mahiti mong mamatay, mahiti mong magdilat, umalis ka na kung showbiz.'"

• Cristine Reyes on her launching movie that was put on hold: "Hindi ako nagpanawahi sa launching movie na 'yun."

• Regine Velasquez on her idea of a perfect wedding: "I just want that day to be peaceful."

• Ryan Agoncillo on marrying Judy Ann Santos: "Ang wedding, parte lang yun eh. Yung next day ang importante ... 'yun ang pinagbuhatan dapat natin."

• Gretchen Barretto on keeping the lines open with her sisters: "Sperking wala'e sila kung sino-sino naman kami ngayon."

• Sharon Cuneta on reuniting with the Cuneta family: "I plan [to] speak with them but [in] the

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ANNABELLE, left, to Bella: "Behala ka."

POWER PLANT CINEMA

RUSH HOUR 3 PG13 | EVAN ALMIGHTY G | BOURNE ULTIMATUM PG13
A LOVE STORY PG13 | SURF'S UP G | HAIRSPRAY PG13

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$108,679,524

TOTAL BOX-OFFICE GROSS AS OF 08/13/2007

THE BIGGEST U.S. OPENING ON RECORD FOR A MUSICAL

John Travolta | Michelle Pfeiffer | Amanda Bynes | Zac Efron | James Marsden | Queen Latifah

HAIRSPRAY

Authentic Soundtrack | Christopher Walken | Nikki Blonsky | Allison Janney | Elijah Kelley

Opening Today

Signos

Stars Irma Adlawan, Ricky Davao, Lauren Novero, Luis Manzy

Directed by Alfred Aleyna L. Adlawan

A rain-based architect (Manzy) returns to his hometown. Soon enough, he gets spooked by a series of supernatural deaths in the village. Exclusively in SM Digital Cinemas.

A Short Film About the Indio Nacional (or the Prolonged Sorrow of Filipinos)

Stars Rodjin Parras, Vanessa Minano, Leonard Galimon, Mark Joshua Blasbang

Directed by Raya Martin

Jay Weissberg of Variety calls it "a beautiful paean to the commons man ... a fascinating work that rewards patience and confirms Martin's place as a talent to watch." Exclusively in Robinsons Galleria.

Xoxoa

Stars Isabel Granada, Paolo Ballesteros, Cacyh Lodueta, PJ Lunet

Directed by Sean L. Lim

A self-confessed sci-fi junkie, debuting director Lim cocoas Steven Spielberg's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and George Lucas' "Star Wars" as favorites. He admits that "Xoxoa" takes inspiration from the latter. Exclusively in SM Digital Cinemas.

Hairspray

Stars John Travolta, Nikki Blonsky, Zac Efron, Michelle Pfeiffer

Directed by Adam Shankman

This is a movie-turned-musical-turned-movie musical. Roger Ebert of Chicago Sun-Times raves: "There's a lot of craft and dynamo backing beneath the 1960s gaudiness."

Evan Almighty

Stars Steve Carell, Morgan Freeman, Lauren Graham, John Goodman

Directed by Tom Shadyac

This sequel to the Jim Carrey hit casts a minor character in the original, the vain newscaster (Carell), as hero. Peter Travers of Rolling Stone rants: "At a reported $175 million, [this] shameless juvenile [movie] ... is the most expensive Hollywood mistake ever made. [But] it's not funny. Every laugh costs $20 million."

God has a grand design... Guess who has to build it!

Steve CARELL Morgan FREEMAN

Evan ALMIGHTY

From the Director of BRUCE ALMIGHTY

OPENS TODAY!

ENTERTAINMENT

SHAWN KELLUM celebrates, flanked by the last contestant of The Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest in Memphis, Tennessee on Friday. Kellum beat out 19 other contestants in the competition and he is the first island nation and first Asian to be crowned the world champion. AP

GMA 7 soars like Davao's eagle

ABOUT 70,000 DAVAO KADAYAWAN crowd members, it was an extra special weekend as GMA Network brought its hottest stars to Davao Republic. GMA 7 acres Dabawenyos an overdose of "mystifying juice" via "Lihong Gupit, Lihong Kulafasa" with Pinoy stars "Lihong Sobrero" and crew-by-by-Gin.

Some of the stars who joined the celebration: Marian Rivera, Dingdong Dantes, Bernardo Bernardo, Dantes Luna, Xyrusgee de Guzes, Khalil a Ramos, Pati Pinto, Pablo Diaz and Adan Ros ("Cedric & Sofie"). Nadine Samonte and Chard.

I instantly teamed up to Rikki Escudero, middle head of DXDS Regional FM and AVP of News and Extension. Here's the killer it is:

"DXDS 7 does not rather bitter choice of being No. 1 in the region but we are definitely getting there. Many of our programs are hosting their own shows. "Bantay" continues its winning streak here, so we've extended it to an hour. And "Kapuso" is leading it one in its time slot."

On January 2008, the wide-of-the-art GMA studios are set to open. It will improve the transmitters' signal, strengthening the network's regional presence.

Dolly Wood

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Gerson-Pinap charmer

I got to chit with my long lost buddy Stanley. He finally tells me "Ms. Funniness." But it was fun here to draw some emotion in he told me he had a crush on Annie Biswash, the bubbly Gemma, half-Pinay chow his segment "Just in Gemma's daily newscast. When I turned Annie about it, she blushed. Will Kimpoy now be taking frequent trips to Bagbaguio?

New romance!

I chitted Jessie Tello. "Why don't you count blessings, friend? Now that Angel Locsin has moved to Channel 2, it looks like your dreamed romance with her no longer has a chance."

He replied, smiling, "I don't want to get to the top of the second Dingdong Dantes."

I shot back: "But Dingdong has Kerylle!" He laughed. "Funny awkward, because Marian and I have the same manager!"

I plodded some more: "What's more is all the more convenient." Dreams' naughty guy seemed to tell me he's really willing but still unable to make a move, not by choice but due to those life circumstances beyond his control.

Confirmation

Pandesal and I enjoyed some gal talk. Dhon her name is) with Dhonna Charmelle Gan-Bollos. But came out in the column, it worked spectacular that they were an item. Now it can be told. They've been on for several months now but Pandesal told me not to say so when she allows him to paint the photo.

Ongtodat also adores Glenrose admitted our relationship as "Dhonna" no matter how old, she said, giggling.

The love they share is so huge as their age differences. Age does not matter if love is large enough it would age.

Personal

Endless thanks to GMA 7's Butch Stuped and his staff Nonie Grivera, Shennah Dumlao and Rochelle Abuan for a fun-filled weekend. Thanks also to my colleagues Shirley Fuentes of Manila Bulletin, Sabin Bob, Pong Mesa, Tita Nora Calderon, Filipino Star Agency, Remate Agilada, Tempo, Abante Tonight, Dan-more Silver, Kham Hernandez, Malaya.

Just like the Dalisay singer would, our kindness begets us. Carry on, GMA, in setting the heights of the ratings game.

E-mail: sassymgh@inquirer.com.ph

Elvis is king again in UK

LONDON—ELVIS PRESLEY WAS ONCE again king of the British pop charts on Sunday as fans marked the 30th anniversary of his death by sending a greatest hits album straight to the number-one spot.

The compilation, "The King," dethroned Leanne singer-songwriter Kate Bush, who slipped to second in the album charts with her debut album "Blade of Brides," the OfficialUK Charts Company said.

Elvis was the only new entry in the top 10 which was otherwise little changed.

First-ever

In Memphis, Tennessee on Friday night, Shawn Khalil, a Filipino, Pennsylvania native, was named the "ultimate Elvis tribute artist," in the first-ever tournament for Elvis impersonators sanctioned by Elvis Presley's estate.

Khalil won over the sold-out crowd at a downtown Memphis concert hall with a version of "Viva Las Vegas" and then dazzled the wide-eyed audience of nine rivals to crown "ultimate artists" with a rendition of "You Gave Me A Mountain."

Clad in a replica of Presley's signature 1970s-era white jumpsuit, Khalil bested two other veterans of the highly competitive Las Vegas Elvis circuit, Tassi Carlisi and Jimmy Edwards.

Contestants were judged on performance, appearance and respect for Elvis. Reuters

A new wave of war films coming soon

LOS ANGELES—HOLLYWOOD FILMMAKERS are preparing to confront an unprecedented influx of war movies on cinema screens.

In a notable knock with the past—when combat films were released several years after the conflict in question—a new genre has been created even as US troops remain the front lines of the "War on Terror."

The release in the United States next month of "In the Valley of Elah," a gritty drama from Oscar-winning director Paul Haggis about the murder of an Iraq war veteran, signals the start of the onslaught.

The film is one of several that is going to test the willingness of movie-goers to see Bruce Action about wartime subjects such as post-9/11 security and the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

After "In the Valley of Elah," "Grace is Gone," starring John Cusack, which earned AMPAS

D-lister win 'em over

By Oliver M. Pulvirenti
Contributor

COMEDIENNE KATHY GRIFFIN APPEARED in '90s sitcoms "Suddenly Susan" and "Suddenly" but she's now better known for her self-proclaimed "D-lister" status.

In the current season of "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List" (Bravo TV, Mondays, 11 p.m.), the stand-up comic and actress revels in her unshakable brand of self-deprecation once again, the reality show documenting days in her life as someone who's not at all the kind of the classic Hollywood celeb. She's found her niche in recent years as someone who prides her at celebrities she encounters, and by letting people get dreaded views of her life through her bitchy sentinel of these.

The outsider

"My Life on the D-List" is still about Griffin's show biz dealings and life behind the scenes, which focuses on her entertaining interactions with her parents, hubby Matt, and the occasional guests visiting her swanky abode. It's interesting to see how some of her stand-up jokes develop.

But some of the most gut-busting are those that the ordinal delivers (in her packed performances or in the show's living-room hoots commentary), about more popular celebrities like Nyta Banks, Sharon Stone, Clay Aiken and Whitney Houston, among a gaggle of others.

In a sense, she's the outsider who's occasionally on the inside, not-so-quietly gathering dirt that would be material to her somewhat gossipy attention-grabbing material. They've been well-received, and apart from doing that on her specials, like the hilarious "Rehapolis," quick-witted Griffin makes fun of those here, too, whether in unrehearsed conversations or as part of the scripted that bridge homage of her working-in-just ordering.

Her misfit, underdog qualities offer a connection that allow reality shows that one more to most personalities just don't — or can't — for one reason or another.

Griffin is opinionated as well. While she dislikes George Bulloo, she went to Baghdad last

A new wave ...

From page 81

glowing reviews at the Sundance Film Festival that for release in October. The movie is about man whose wife is killed during service in Iraq.

Other films on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the broader issues of post-9/11 security include Showtime's Robert Redford-directed "Lions for Lambs," starring Tom Cruise and Meryl Streep. In Jolino's "Redacted" and Gavin Hood's "Rendition," starring Reese Witherspoon as the wife of an Egyptian-born chemical engineer who, all without charge and rehashed off to a secret interrogation to be questioned by the CIA.

The spate of films will continue through 20 with Kimberly Peirce's "Stop Loss," about a young who refuses to return to Iraq due out in March as well as "The Hurt Locker," which recently be filming in Jordan and Iraq.

KATHY GRIFFIN

...tour (shown in a recent episode) to entertain the troops. It's an educational process for her, as well as for viewers, to see which type of jokes work there.

Put us followers of "D-List" have seen throughout the course of the series, she's one motivated lady who'll step at nothing to win people over. It's a victory for her to see the drawings of the multitude of weary American soldiers, her "new demographic."

Comic tilt

When she's back in the US, she undertakes a cooking show and stardom, and invites young Tatis from "Laguna Beach" over for the occasion. At the same time, she has to stay on a strict diet for octogenarian celebs that should lift of her dramatic weight loss.

She tries to talks about her long experience in a radio interview, as well as in a stand-up show where she reacted rather amusingly to a heckler who didn't seem too keen on her poking fun at it. In another episode, she sits in as one of the judges in a comic competition show, which she admittedly did primarily for the free food it allowed her. Credited TV appearances help keep the D-listers viable.

"Kathy Griffin" still is one of the more revealing glimpses into Hollywood's horror for overexcitedness and roles, and, as always, Kathy Griffin does her humdrum the remarkably talented purveyor of honest sarcasm and scathing humor.

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FROM THE SCREENWRITER OF OUT OF SIGHT AND GET SHORTY

NOKIA

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OPENS AUGUST 29

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NICOLE KIDMAN DANIEL CRAIG

THE INVASION

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1		2		3		4 A LOVE STORY
GLORIETTA 4	1	A LOVE STORY	2		3?	HAIRSPRAY	
GREENBELT 1	4		5	SURF'S UP	6	EVAN ALMIGHTY	7
GREENBELT 2	1	A LOVE STORY			2	EVAN ALMIGHTY	
	1?	HAIRSPRAY			2?	EVAN ALMIGHTY	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	3		4	RUSH HOUR 3	5	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	
	1?	EVAN ALMIGHTY			2	HAIRSPRAY	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	3	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	4	SURF'S UP	5	RUSH HOUR 3	
	1	EVAN ALMIGHTY	2	LICENSE TO WED	3	A LOVE STORY	4 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
MARKET! MARKET!	1	A LOVE STORY			2	HAIRSPRAY	
	3	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	4	EVAN ALMIGHTY	5	RUSH HOUR 3	
TRINOMA	1	A LOVE STORY	2	SURF'S UP	3	THE LOOKOUT	4 HAIRSPRAY
	5	RUSH HOUR 3	6	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	7?	EVAN ALMIGHTY	

AT THE MALLS

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The indie roundtable talks

Cherry Pie Picache: Indie filmmakers come up with projects that you would want to sink your teeth into

CHERRY PIE PICACHE, Irma Adlawan and Gina Pareño are three of the most in-demand actors in Pinoy indie films.

Picache was last seen in "Heavy Child." Her titles include the Red Actress-owned in the 58th Locarno Film Festival and Cinemalaya Film Festival in Metro Manila.

Adlawan, a theater actor, first appeared in Jeffrey Jeturian's "Tuhog" (produced by a major studio) and got rave reviews for her work in Ellen Ongkeko's "Pisong Lola." Her first Pinoy digital indie film release is a commercial flesher (on in the country).

Pareño starred in Jeturian's "Kubrador." Her film also won the Best Actress award in the Dubai International Film Festival. The film also won the grand prize in the 2006 Cinemanila International Film Festival, as well the Gawad Urian Award for Best Picture.

We continue with the bravery's indie roundtable talks, with the three actors recounting the circumstances that brought them to indie filmmaking. They also explain why they love acting in indie films.

"To be honest, the first reason that I got into independent filmmaking was, the directors and the stars come up with films that you would want to sink your teeth into, especially as an actor. For any artistes as creatives don't because we don't always get that as mainstream or commercial films.

"Napakaraming frustrations, especially now that the industry is so much into television more than films. Maybe nagkukulang ko ng nakayang pag-unawa. (In independent filmmaking), you have a group of people whose only motivation and inspiration is to do a film is their passion for their craft—maybe production design, scriptwriting. They really feel dedicated sila. Meron kasi silang ibang kinakain. You work together to any camp kasi, eh.

"Maybe din ang independent filmmaking have anything goes. (Hindi) napakarami kayo ikapwersa kayo sa creativity ganoon. Maraming ang dipindot me. Depending sa akin e, sa mga artistes. We're you many the journey, you enjoy the process. Ayaw ko nga ng mga nakakapagod."

"Mi sa challenged because of the conditions. Alam mo na, kung sa ating. Iyon ang buhay. Iyong description ko sa kanya ako three days, all this time I was exposed to the mainstream and commercial filmmaking, all the time yung pinag-aaralan ko lang ang ang line ko TV, pag-block yung camera, nakakita me yung red tally lights, dapat akaalis iyong artista ako doon. So lahat 'yun natin-aaaral na depende sa audience... so all these things you have to adjust to."

Back to zero

"But in my experience with Peque Gallaga, all the things I have learned in my 17 years in the business, lahat nagsa ko because I should not be nonsense of anything. You have to be back in zero. So the third film, binalewala ko director ko, di ko na nag-kailangang research kasi para lang sa mainstream ang kinakailangan. But at the end of the day, you trust the judgment of the director sa kin films. Film is a director's medium. That's what I did.

"Hindi ako good sa mga all these. Inilagay ko talaga it. Ganoon ako. Ang ganoon ako. Pero you many the journey, you enjoy the process. Ayaw ko nga ng mga nakakapagod."

"Mi sa challenged because of the conditions. Alam mo na, kung sa ating. Iyon ang buhay. Iyong description ko sa kanya ako three days, all this time I was exposed to the mainstream and commercial filmmaking, all the time yung pinag-aaralan ko lang ang ang line ko TV, pag-block yung camera, nakakita me yung red tally lights, dapat akaalis iyong artista ako doon. So lahat 'yun natin-aaaral na depende sa audience... so all these things you have to adjust to."

Back to zero

"But in my experience with Peque Gallaga, all the things I have learned in my 17 years in the business, lahat nagsa ko because I should not be nonsense of anything. You have to be back in zero. So the third film, binalewala ko director ko, di ko na nag-kailangang research kasi para lang sa mainstream ang kinakailangan. But at the end of the day, you trust the judgment of the director sa kin films. Film is a director's medium. That's what I did.

"Hindi ako good sa mga all these. Inilagay ko talaga it. Ganoon ako. Ang ganoon ako. Pero you many the journey, you enjoy the process. Ayaw ko nga ng mga nakakapagod."

Exploitation

"I'm not saying that some movies and commercial films nothing is bad. But independent filmmaking) is something I want to do.

"Nakaka-bang ina-exploit. I don't know kung ano ang nasa dating-isang process that director or writers use to make a film. Siyempre ako ilang ang nakakaramdam na'n. Para sana, bawas nakakapagod na'n."

"Kasi nga, nakakapagod na'n. Iyon nga, siyempre dinating e. Akong ako ng artista. At least my scene. Sila ang ano ako mas dami and the scene. Ang ng mga ano, parang artista? Hindi ako. Tulad ko ng a' Irma. Sabi na ng isa sa mga ng si Jeffrey. Tinatag nanilang artista. Sabi na ng isa. Iyon ang mga ano."

"Sa kanyang yung-isang. Sabi, yeah, yeah. Nagkaganyan ng sa mga, nagsisimula ng ano si Jeffrey kung mga ano na. Sabi, Sir, gawan pala ako Filipino people is, kung mamumong ilang umiyak, artista ka. Pero kung hindi ka mamumong umiyak, di ka mamumong umiyak. Sabi ko, Bad's a good observation, yung hindi ka mamumong umiyak hindi ka pandemyong-artista.

"Kasi 'Pisong Lola' came. Hindi ilagay. Sabi ko, kung Ambot pa ako nanonood. Sana nanggawa ko nang buto-buto pa ako. Ang nang. I accepted it. Dinala nga nanood ko ng ano ng mga ng. Sabi ko, ang mga ng. Sabi ko, ang mga ng. Sabi ko, ang